Finance chief's authority to reprogram funds is renewed. PAGE 2
NMI Crime Stoppers wins nat'l and int'l awards. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 253

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$900B COVID relief bill agreed

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Dec. 21, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,193	0	7,193
Recovered	6,613	0	6,613
Active	461	0	461
Deaths	119	0	119
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		96,512	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	116	0	116
Traced via Travel Screening	90	0	90
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		22,633*	
Days since last community transmission		125	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By ANDREW TAYLOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Capitol Hill negotiators sealed a deal Sunday on an almost $1-trillion COVID-19 economic relief package, finally delivering long-overdue help to businesses and individuals and providing money to deliver vaccines to a nation eager for them.

See $900B on Page 4

IN BRIEF

- **Total amount: $908 billion**
- **PUA and FPUC extended until March (but at a reduced rate**
- **$600 stimulus checks**
- **Funding to keep PSS open, staff paid**
- **$14 million for Marianas NAP**

Kilili: COVID relief bill will help CNMI

An agreement has been reached on a new economic relief package to help people in the Marianas and communities all around America get through the coronavirus pandemic.

Sablan

The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote on passage Monday in Washington with the Senate to follow quickly, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

See KILILI on Page 4

FOOD FOR ALL

Volunteers from Mt. Carmel School and close friends of the Majesty Restaurant hand out bento boxes filled with rice, steamed vegetables, roast chicken, and Chamorro pork pot roast, with bottles of water included during a food distribution held in front of the restaurant last Sunday, Dec. 20. For four months now, Majesty Restaurant has been serving hot meals and relief bags every Sunday morning as part of its Full Belly, Full Hearts 1,000 Meals Initiative with support from Micronesian Brokers Inc. and Marianas Medical Center. Since Labor Day weekend, 800 meals and relief bags have been distributed by Majesty Restaurant with help from private donors. Last Sunday's distribution of 200 meals rounded out the total number of meals distributed to 1,000.

NEIL FAMA

Passenger killed in Kagman car accident

» CNMI's second traffic fatality of 2020

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI saw its second traffic fatality this year after a car ran off the road in Kagman

See KAGMAN on Page 4

Not much interest in farm plots program

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Concepcion-Teregeyo

Only a few people availed of over 200 farm plots that the Department of Public Lands is making

See PROGRAM on Page 4

INSIDE

SUPPLEMENT
This issue of the newspaper comes with a supplement on Christmas in the midst of a pandemic.

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BUSINESS
Docomo Pacific continues its support of the American Red Cross Club 200.

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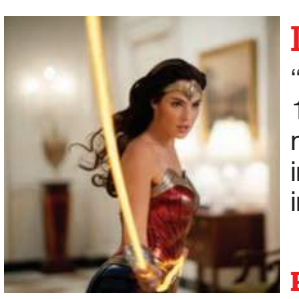

LIFE & STYLE
"Wonder Woman 1984" earns an estimated $38.5 million in ticket sales from international theaters.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Finance chief's authority to reprogram funds is renewed

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres renewed Thursday the authority of Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to reprogram or transfer funds from accounts of any department, agency, office, board, commission, corporation, or other entity of all branches of the government in order to meet the threat of COVID-19.

Atalig

In signing Executive Order 2020-28, Torres said the Finance secretary shall create a separate business account called the COVID-19 Threat Prevention and Mitigation Account into which all funds taken under his authority shall be deposited. Atalig is required to maintain a strict accounting of the sources of funds deposited into this account and disbursement.

The executive order shall remain in effect for 30 days from Thursday.

Torres first gave the secretary such authority when he first issued Executive Order 2020-05 last March 18. The governor then subsequently renewed the secretary's authority by signing other executive orders every month.

Torres said that meeting the COVID-19 threat requires a "whole of government" approach such as what the government does in responding to and recovering from typhoons. He said this requires the utilization or potential utilization of all government agencies, personnel, facilities, equipment, and other resources as necessary to respond to the COVID-19 threat. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

DPS REPORTS

Man arrested for disturbing the peace, assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and tampering with a vehicle

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, at about 10:01pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a disturbance in the village of Papago, Saipan.

Adolfo

At the scene, police met with the individuals involved and learned that the incident occurred at Raymond Fitipol Adolfo's residence. A female individual had gone to the house to get her belongings but Adolfo refused to give them to her. At this time Adolfo heard a loud vehicle revving just down the road so he went to check. Adolfo then noticed the female's prior acquaintance in a vehicle. Adolfo stated that the vehicle began approaching him so he picked up a rock and threw it at the vehicle's front windshield, damaging it. Adolfo stated that after he had thrown the rock, he noticed his two kids in the vehicle as well.

Adolfo was arrested for disturbing the peace, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He was transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained.

On the same day, a Rule 5 was signed and authorized by Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for the charges of disturbing the peace, assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and tampering with a vehicle with a cash bail of $10,000. At about 7:40pm on the same day, Adolfo was served at the Department of Corrections where he was being detained. ***(PR)***

Man arrested for assault and battery in Sadog Tasi

Nawaz

On Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, at about 10:59am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an assault on one of the employees of the Mobil gas station in Sadog Tasi, Saipan.

At the scene, police met with the victim who stated that she had been struck at the back of the head twice by an individual by the name of Omar Nawaz who lives in the area. Police learned that Nawaz was at the southwestern parking lot arguing with his brother when the victim went outside to check if they were okay. As the victim was walking toward the two brothers, Nawaz then yelled at the victim and as she turned to go back inside the gas station Nawaz smacked the victim's head twice from behind.

On Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, an arrest warrant was signed and authorized by Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio for the arrest of Nawaz for the charges of disturbing the peace, and assault and battery with a cash bail of $5,000. On the same day, Nawaz was arrested and transported to the Department of Corrections where he was booked and detained. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center | Susupe
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 12/2/2020 and 12/9/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3906** – Resources Management International Corporation proposes utilize public land for its Mining use and construct a 1-storey office area using cargo freight shipping containers. This use is classified as "Mining" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 069 A 01 in the village of As Matuis. This area is zoned as Industrial district.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3926** – Lumar, LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2003-4-R3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3927** – Lumar, LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2003-4-R3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3837** – Saipan Cares for Animals CNMI, Inc. proposes to utilize a pre-existing building structure and construct outdoor Dog Kennels for its Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use. This use is classified as "Veterinary Clinic or Hospital" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This site is located on Lot No. 038 I 54 in the Village of As Gonno. This area is zoned as Rural.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3847** – Li, Shan Shan is proposing to construct a new concrete structure measuring for its Mom and Pop Grocery Store Use. This use is classified as "Mom and Pop Grocery Store" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 002 G 16 in Kagman village. This area is zoned as Village Residential district.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4100** – Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a pre-existing 2-storey building structure measuring for its Cannabis Retail Use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 D 13 & 001 D 14 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

7. **Conditional Use Application #2020-4101** – Common Wealth Cannabis Co., LLC is proposing to occupy and renovate a pre-existing 2-storey building structure measuring for its Cannabis Lounge Use. This use is classified as "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 D 13 & 001 D 14 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Garapan Core district.

C. New Business
1. Tuu Group LLC Revised Plans
   i. Conditional Use Application #2584 (Retail)
   ii. Conditional Use Application #2585 (Lounge)
2. Election of 2021 Board Officers
3. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

D. Miscellaneous
1. Next Meeting – February 4th
2. Other Matters

E. Adjournment

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications
Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYlNPMDdXdFlQRTQ4UkhFRjViUT09
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492

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Foremen (5)
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Project: FEMA Permanent Housing Construction, Saipan CNMI

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Hours of Operation: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm
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Deadline to apply is December 30, 2020

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NMI Crime Stoppers wins nat'l and int'l awards

NMI Crime Stoppers has won both a national and international award for their crime prevention efforts in the Commonwealth for 2019.

The award for best social media effort was awarded by USA Crime Stoppers at its annual conference, which was held virtually this year. The best Crime of the Week presentation for populations of 300,000 and less was presented by Crime Stoppers International at its annual awards presentation, also held virtually.

Both awards arose from videos created by Ricky Sanchez, videographer and long-time NMI board member, using information provided by DPS' Criminal Investigation Bureau. The videos were narrated by NMI Crime Stoppers coordinator and DPS officer Fred Sato.

Crime Stoppers is an effective tool used by law enforcement to get information about a crime from the public, while the those providing tips on a crime remain anonymous and get a chance to be awarded up to $1,000 if the tips lead to an arrest.

Over the years, NMI Crime Stoppers has won numerous International awards for its efforts in making the CNMI a safer place to live, work, and play. This is its first USA Crime Stoppers recognition.

"CNMI Crime Stoppers program regularly puts forth quality marketing and media efforts to the awards program and this year's submission was no different," said Vince Hughes, chairman of the CSI Awards Committee and CSI board member.

Jim Arenovski, long-time CNMI Crime Stoppers board member and current vice president of Crime Stoppers International, said, "The NMI CS program has won seven international media awards over the years. The local NMI program is strong and competes with programs around the world that have much larger populations and funding. Our Commonwealth is represented well and is respected internationally."

The Crime of the Week is an effective feature used by NMI Crime Stoppers to get information about a crime to the public. "The goal of the COTW is to get the public to call in with information from anyone who may have been in the area and seen something that can help DPS or other local or federal agencies solve a crime," said Brian Clayton, NMI Crime Stoppers chairperson.

The premise of Crime Stoppers is there are people out in the community who know about crimes that happen on our island. Whether it is friends, family or associates, someone other than the person doing the crime has information. Crime Stoppers offers the public a way to share that information and remain anonymous and receive a cash award up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Although it is important to report information on crime, most people are afraid of getting involved. Crime Stoppers offer an alternative to speaking to law enforcement.

Crime Stoppers was founded in 1976 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by then detective Greg MacAleese, after a gas station attendant was murdered in an armed robbery attempt. MacAleese created a reenactment of the crime with the information they had about the crime and put it out to the public. They asked the public to call in information with the promise they would be anonymous. Within 24 hours they made an arrest. MacAlesse made a visit to the CNMI in early 2005 and visited a few high schools and businesses. The program he created has grown in various forms in different countries.

Today, there are over 1,200 Crime Stoppers programs around the world, including Australia, USA, Canada, UK and Europe, Africa, South America, and throughout the Caribbean.

The local NMI program has seen great success since its inception in 1989. Tips to the NMI Crime Stoppers tips line have help law enforcement take over $2.5 million in drugs off the street and over $1 million in stolen goods recovered. Tips to NMI Crime Stoppers have also led law enforcement to solving murders, child abuse and exploitation, robberies, and burglaries here in the CNMI.

The NMI Crime of the Week videos can be seen on the NMI Crime Stoppers website and YouTube Channel. ***(PR)***

CHCC working to bring teledentistry to Tinian, Rota clinics

Thanks to the diligent work and leadership of Dr. Angelica Sabino, the Dental Program of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has significantly increased dental care access on Rota and Tinian by traveling once a month to each island.

Still, full-time preventive and restorative dental care is necessary for Tinian and Rota residents to meet all of their oral health needs. A full-time dental clinic remains a plane ride away for more than 5,000 CNMI residents, creating a significant barrier to care. Irregular dental care often results in pain and oral disease, requiring even more intensive dental treatment.

Oral health is not a luxury; it is an essential component of overall health, especially for pregnant women, people with diabetes, and people who use betel nut. Preventable oral diseases continue to cause pain and disability for many Tinian and Rota residents.

Of respondents to the 2016 CNMI Non-communicable Disease and Risk Factor Survey, only 30% of Tinian adults reported accessing dental care in the last 12 months, and nearly 13% of adults on Tinian reported missing six or more permanent teeth. Statistics from a sealant program that provides exams and sealants for all second and sixth grade students enrolled in the Public School System on Rota during the 2018-2019 school year show that 96.15% of second grade students have at least one decayed tooth and 75% of sixth grade students have at least one decayed tooth. Regular access to on-island dental services would improve health outcomes and quality of life for children and adults alike.

To address the need for full-time dental care, the CHCC has made plans to expand full-time dental services to the islands at the local health centers using teledentistry.

Under the CHCC's teledentistry model, resident dental professionals would work under the remote supervision of dentists on Saipan to provide clinical examinations, radiographs, sealants, silver diamine fluoride, fluoride varnish, prophylaxis, fillings, extractions and oral cancer screenings on a full-time basis. Regulatory amendments which allow dentists to remotely oversee the work of dental therapists and hygienists were passed by the CNMI's Health Care Professionals Licensing Board last month. More complex dental procedures such as surgeries would still need to be referred to Saipan.

Although plans are in place, CHCC needs to secure the funds needed for the initial equipment and software investments. Last August, CHCC reached out to the local Tinian and Rota delegations for funding assistance of the roughly $180,000 capital investment needed to establish the long-awaited services on both islands. Revenues from operations are projected to sustain the dental service in the long-term.

For additional information on dental services or to make a dental appointment, contact the CHCC Dental Clinic at (670) 236-8369 (Saipan), (670) 433-9233 (Tinian Health Center), or (670) 532-9461 (Rota Health Center). ***(PR)***

ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE

12/22/2020

Notice for Public Comment
Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient:	Approved Budget:	Proposed Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Current IDIS Funded Amount:
IDIS# 706	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	Office of Grants Management	$284,910.80	($100,000.00)	$ 184,910.80	$284,910.80
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			**($100,000.00)**		
IDIS# 716	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Lighting Fixtures for the Oleai Track and Field Facility	Northern Marianas Sports Association	$250,000.00	$100,000.00	$350,000.00	$250,000.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			**$100,000.00**		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $100,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before Monday, December 28, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

BOE approves $125K salary for Ada

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on the year-end evaluation of Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, the 16th CNMI State Board of Education voted to retain him in the position and raised his compensation to $125,000 per annum at the special board meeting last Dec. 17.

Ada

Ada's $125,000 salary means his per month compensation is approximately $10,417. That amount is 65% federally funded. The Public School System, through the Office of the Commissioner of Education, administers and oversees 22 federal grants. The 65% represents the required indirect cost that is allowed by federal grantors for education superintendents.

According to a BOE and PSS statement yesterday, the pay scale was put in place many years ago under a compensation policy approved and voted by BOE. Prior to hiring any education commissioner, BOE offers and announces the salary and benefits as they begin the hiring process for the position.

The BOE, as the policymaking and governing-board of the PSS, has determined that, as the district superintendent and chief state school officer, Ada's annual salary should comply with the pay scale that the BOE has set. Any pay raise and benefits that were approved for Ada were also approved for the past three education commissioners who have passed their evaluation, the statement added.

During Ada's first full year of service, which was subject to evaluation, Ada agreed to receive a much lesser pay of $90,000. His previous pay was based on the PSS standard compensation plan for holders of postgraduate degrees, such as doctors of education, along with other required/credited number of years of education experience, training, and other skills.

"To be perfectly clear the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Ada, never requested this salary. The BOE made this recommendation based on his performance—that's why we raised his salary," said the BOE statement.

The BOE statement said it believes that Ada has performed above and beyond what was expected of him during his first year in office. He has helped the school district receive unprecedented federal grant-awards that helped ease the impact of the financial challenges facing PSS as a result of the two super typhoons and today's COVID-19 pandemic.

"With the COVID-19 and with the overall economic challenges impacting PSS, no Commissioner of Education had to navigate this most challenging time," said BOE, adding that he has been positive, determined, and vigilant during the "most difficult time in PSS."

The priority now, the BOE said, is to commit to further improving the school district's best practices in managing its human resources. To ensure equity, among others and in particular, by addressing principal salary in the administration of the JROTC and Special Education Programs.

The average school superintendent salary in the U.S. mainland is $164,000 as of November 2020. The amount increases depending on many other important factors such as education, certifications, additional skills, and years of experience.

$900B

From Page 1

The agreement, announced by congressional leaders, would establish a temporary $300 per week supplemental jobless benefit and a $600 direct stimulus payment to most Americans, along with a new round of subsidies for hard-hit businesses and money for schools, health care providers and renters facing eviction.

It came after months of battling and posturing, but the negotiating dynamic changed in Republicans' favor after the election and as the end of the congressional session neared. President-elect Joe Biden was eager for a deal to deliver long-awaited help to suffering people and a boost to the economy, even though it was less than half the size that Democrats wanted this fall.

House leaders informed lawmakers that they would vote on the legislation on Monday, and the Senate was likely to vote on Monday, too. Lawmakers were eager to leave Washington and close out a tumultuous year.

"There will be another major rescue package for the American people," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in announcing the agreement for a relief bill that would total almost $900 billion. "It is packed with targeted policies to help struggling Americans who have already waited too long."

A fight over Federal Reserve emergency powers was resolved Saturday night by the Senate's top Democrat, Chuck Schumer of New York, and conservative Republican Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. That breakthrough led to a final round of negotiations Sunday.

Still, delays in finalizing the agreement prompted the House to pass a one-day stopgap spending bill to prevent a government shutdown at midnight Sunday. The Senate was likely to pass the measure Sunday night as well.

The final agreement would be the largest spending measure yet. It combined COVID-19 relief with a $1.4 trillion government-wide funding plan and lots of other unrelated measures on taxes, health, infrastructure and education. The government-wide funding would keep the government open through September.

Passage neared as coronavirus cases and deaths spiked and evidence piled up that the economy was struggling. The legislation had been held up by months of dysfunction, posturing and bad faith. But talks turned serious in recent days as lawmakers on both sides finally faced the deadline of acting before leaving Washington for Christmas.

"This bill is a good bill. Tonight is a good night. But it is not the end of the story, it is not the end of the job," Schumer told reporters. "Anyone who thinks this bill is enough does not know what's going on in America."

The $300 per week bonus jobless benefit was one half the supplemental federal unemployment benefit provided under the $1.8 billion CARES Act in March and would be limited to 11 weeks instead of 16 weeks. The direct $600 stimulus payment to most people would also be half the March payment, subject to the same income limits in which an individual's payment began to phase out after $75,000.

The CARES Act was credited with keeping the economy from falling off a cliff amid widespread lockdowns this spring, but Republicans controlling the Senate cited debt concerns in pushing against Democratic demands. Republican politicians, starting with President Donald Trump, focused more on reopening the economy and less on taxpayer-financed steps like supplemental jobless benefits.

Lawmakers had hoped to pass the bill this weekend and avoid the need for a stopgap spending bill, but progress slowed Saturday as Toomey pressed for the inclusion of a provision to close down the Fed's lending facilities. Democrats and the White House said it was too broadly worded and would have tied the hands of the incoming Biden administration, but Republicans rallied to Toomey's position.

Late-breaking decisions would limit $300 per week bonus jobless benefits—one half the supplemental federal unemployment benefit provided under the CARES Act in March—to 10 weeks instead of 16 weeks as before. The direct $600 stimulus payment to most people would be half the March payment, subject to the same income limits in which an individual's payment begins to phase out after $75,000.

PROGRAM

From Page 1

available to private individuals to encourage subsistence farming.

This was learned when *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain updates about the farm plots program, with Public Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, saying last week, "We don't have as much of an interest, or we don't have that many applicants for subsistence [farming]."

She said they received only about 20 applicants.

Concepcion-Teregeyo said she does not know why there is not much interest in the program. "We're making it available and it's up to them if they want to avail or not," she said.

The goal of the program is to increase the island's food sustainability, particularly during this COVID-19 pandemic situation.

For those who want to avail of this program, Concepcion-Teregeyo said they're working on getting the roads open near the farm plots. For farm plots that are located on the edge of a road, DPL is now preparing to issue the permits, she said.

Deveney Dela Cruz, special assistant to the DPL secretary, recently stated that according to their Real Estate Division, the fee for each 1,000-square-meter farm plot is $250 annually.

"This is open to all CNMI citizens 18 and above," Dela Cruz said.

DPL announced the new program last Oct. 19.

Concepcion-Teregeyo earlier stated that their goal is to maximize the use of public lands to benefit the community. She underscored the importance of this program during this COVID-19 pandemic to increase food sustainability on the island and reduce reliance on imported food.

DPL said these subsistence farm plots are temporary and renewable every year.

DPL said they saw the community's response as a result of the global pandemic when backyard gardening became a popular past time.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

over the weekend and slammed into a concrete culvert, with the driver and three other passengers all sustaining injuries.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the accident across the Joeten Supermarket in the village of Kagman last Saturday resulted in one death. As per routine procedure, the police declined to disclose the victim's gender, saying they still need to notify the victim's first of kin.

Pangelinan said that speed, alcohol, and drugs contributed to the fatal crash. The investigation of the accident remains ongoing.

DPS has yet to confirm whether the run-off at Suicide Cliff over a week ago was a traffic fatality or a suicide. The case remains under investigation.

According to a press release yesterday, DPS received a 911 call at about 11:45pm last Saturday, reporting an auto run-off incident across the Joeten Supermarket in Kagman. At the scene, police met with the vehicle's driver, who stated that the vehicle's brakes had stopped functioning.

The driver told police that there was a vehicle in front of them that was traveling in the same direction and another oncoming vehicle in the opposite lane. The driver then allegedly decided to drive on the shoulder of the road, before veering into the water drainage. The vehicle continued traveling down before hitting a slab culvert.

The operator and the four passengers were all transported to the Commonwealth Health Center to be checked for their injuries. The driver sustained a fractured right clavicle, while three other passengers sustained an abrasion, facial contusion, and one claimed to have pain to the head. The fourth passenger sustained blunt force trauma to the head and was pronounced dead by Dr. Matt Nelson at about 1:15am.

The CNMI saw its first traffic-related fatality last October along As Terlaje Hill, when a car slammed into the accident-prone traffic signal lamp post at the Northern Marianas College intersection. The crash occurred on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at about 8:24pm at the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa intersection streetlight on As Terlaje Hill. The victim's vehicle, a blue four-door sedan, sustained extensive damage on the front.

KILILI

From Page 1

The $908-billion spending bill will continue the pandemic unemployment assistance that has helped so many Marianas workers, who lost their jobs due to the coronavirus. Federal pandemic unemployment compensation will also restart and continue through March 14, although at a reduced rate of $300 weekly.

Direct payments of $600 will go to taxpayers, similar to the CARES Act economic impact payments earlier this year. Individuals earning under $75,000 and couples earning under $150,000 will qualify. They will also receive $600 for each child dependent.

Marianas public schools will be able to stay open with teachers and other staff paid out of a special set-aside of $409 million for insular area Kindergarten through Grade 12 education. College students will receive an increase in Pell grants and special funds are allocated for minority serving institutions such as Northern Marianas College.

And the $14 million that Gov. Ralph Torres told Sablan was necessary, so no one in the Marianas would be cut from the Nutritional Assistance Program or have their benefits reduced, is also in the bill.

"The Democratic Caucus has been meeting virtually all weekend to reach agreement on this COVID relief package," Sablan said. "My first concern in these sessions is always to insist the Marianas are included in the larger national programs, as we did with unemployment and the direct payments to individuals, when the CARES Act passed last March.

"But there are always other areas, more specific to the Marianas, that also require persistent reminders to leadership and the staff who are writing the bill, such as food aid, because we are not part of SNAP, the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. I have been talking with [House] Speaker [Nancy] Pelosi and Appropriations Committee Chair [Rep. Nita M.] Lowey this weekend and throughout the process of putting together a new relief package. They are both good champions of the U.S. insular areas and I am very grateful for their assistance," Sablan said.

Text of the FY21 omnibus appropriation and COVID relief bill is expected to be released shortly. ***(PR)***

NMC, PSS accord allows HS students to earn college credits

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Public School System have agreed to create a program that will allow public high school students to earn college credits at NMC while still attending high school.

The program, called "College Now," was approved by the Board of Education during their meeting last Dec. 16 and was signed at NMC's Board of Regents conference room on As Terlaje Hill last Dec. 18, with NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada signing the agreement in the presence of their respective board members.

According to NMC Enrollment director Manny Castro, PSS instructors at the high school level will be teaching subjects where students can receive both high school and college credits for—if they choose to. As part of the agreement, the instructors who will be teaching these courses must first be vetted by NMC. The way it'll work is that PSS instructors who will be teaching subjects where high school students can receive both college and high school credits have to meet all faculty qualifications for NMC and have to be certified by NMC.

"For example, if you're within the high school language arts class, some students may opt just for the high school credit and others may want both the high school and college credits, but it's the same instructor teaching the course," said Castro.

According to Eliptico, "College Now" would give PSS high school students an opportunity for an accelerated pathway to their career. PSS students won't have to wait until they graduate from high school to attend and earn college credits and they can start doing that now.

"This is really a big testament to the relationship that NMC has with PSS and this is just one of the initiatives. We have a lot of other programs coming up with PSS," said Eliptico.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio sad the College Now program is close to her heart. "It was a legacy that was here since 20-plus years ago. …The program gave opportunities for individuals to…earn high school credits, as well as college credits. …This student will be killing two birds with one stone," said,.

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, BOE member Andrew Orsini, and BOE Tinian representative Antonio Borja all expressed full support for the program.

"I think we owe that to [our students] because we don't have so many resources on our islands…but we have the big resource, which is the human mind, and we need to develop that in our young children," said Orsini. "I want to thank the members and NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico for giving us this opportunity for all our children in PSS, and I think it's a wonderful thing that hopefully will benefit both institutions."

Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie Eliptico and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada are flanked by members of the Board of Education and NMC Board of Regents as they sign the College Now agreement at the BOR conference room on As Terlaje Hill last Dec. 18.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Small craft advisory, rip current risk present

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday, while a high rip current risk remains in effect through Thursday afternoon

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point. east winds of 20 to 25 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots and seas of 8 to 12 feet are present in coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam until 6pm Thursday.

Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in hazardous conditions.

Dangerous rip currents are still present along east facing reefs through Thursday afternoon. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is advised to avoid venturing out near reef lines facing east. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don`t swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Petitioner Marian A. Kileleman

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: RUFINA SANTOS ATALIG, Decedent.) Civil Action No.: 20-0381-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: RUFINA SANTOS ATALIG

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of MARIAN A. KILELEMAN for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 14th day of January, 2021, at 9:00a.m. at Supreme Court Room, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone no. (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, RUFINA SANTOS ATALIG, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court

By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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GIFT
Sign up for a $50 Plan or higher to join our Holiday Pick-a-Gift
OVER
$17,800
WORTH OF
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GIVEN AWAY!
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Terms and conditions apply. Offer available from 12/21/20 to 12/24/20. Customers get a chance to win stocking stuffers when they sign up on the $80 or $50 Standard Plan or $65 or $50 BYP Plan for 12 or 24 months. Each customer gets to draw once. Sign-ups made after 12/24/20 will not be accommodated. All prizes drawn by customer are final and cannot be changed. See stores or visit ite.net for details.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

End the federal barrier to researching marijuana

The state of marijuana research law defies common sense. Although Washingtonians are free to purchase an astonishing array of cannabis products for recreational or medical use, many of the state's finest researchers are handcuffed in their ability to examine the good—or harm—of those same products.

Federal law requires all research in federally funded laboratories to use only marijuana from a single facility—in Oxford, Mississippi, thousands of miles away from Washington's hundreds of marijuana retailers. This absurd restriction needs to end.

A bill now before the U.S. Senate would improve matters dramatically and deserves approval. The Medical Marijuana Research Act, which passed the House with resounding bipartisan approval, would untie researchers' hands nationwide. U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., is a co-sponsor.

Under the bill, qualified researchers in states that have legalized marijuana would be able to perform lab analysis of the cannabis available in those states.

The University of Washington's laboratories could research the same products Washingtonians of legal age can already buy and consume. Privately funded labs can study the street-legal products, but the top-flight research institutions funded by the National Institutes of Health cannot collaborate.

"There's currently these two (types of) entities where you can perform research, and there's no bridge between the two," said UW pharmacology professor Dr. Nephi Stella.

For Stella and other medical-marijuana researchers, this restriction hinders their ability to learn more about potentially transformative uses for cannabis products in medicine—such as the recent discovery that cannabidiol may be a useful treatment for epilepsy.

"Having one source of old-school cannabis product does not satisfy our needs for research," he said.

Although the University of Mississippi's marijuana-growing operation has worked to diversify its offerings in recent years, its selection is still limited to 11 marijuana varietals, mostly of lower potency than products widely available in Washington.

Congress must end this federal choke point in drug research. Medical marijuana is now legal in 36 states, and 15 states allow recreational marijuana. Researchers in each one of them should be free to analyze the local products citizens can buy and consume for themselves. The goals aren't limited to the medical world. States have not found a consensus definition for chemical thresholds for impaired driving after marijuana consumption. Washington voters set an arbitrary THC blood limit for drivers as part of Initiative 502 in 2012. California and Oregon do not have a set standard.

"We don't have a good test for impairment because we can't study it," said U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., one of the bill's authors.

Science ought to inform this national conversation better. The Senate should pass HR 3797 to remove the barriers to cannabis research as marijuana legalization continues to proliferate across the country.

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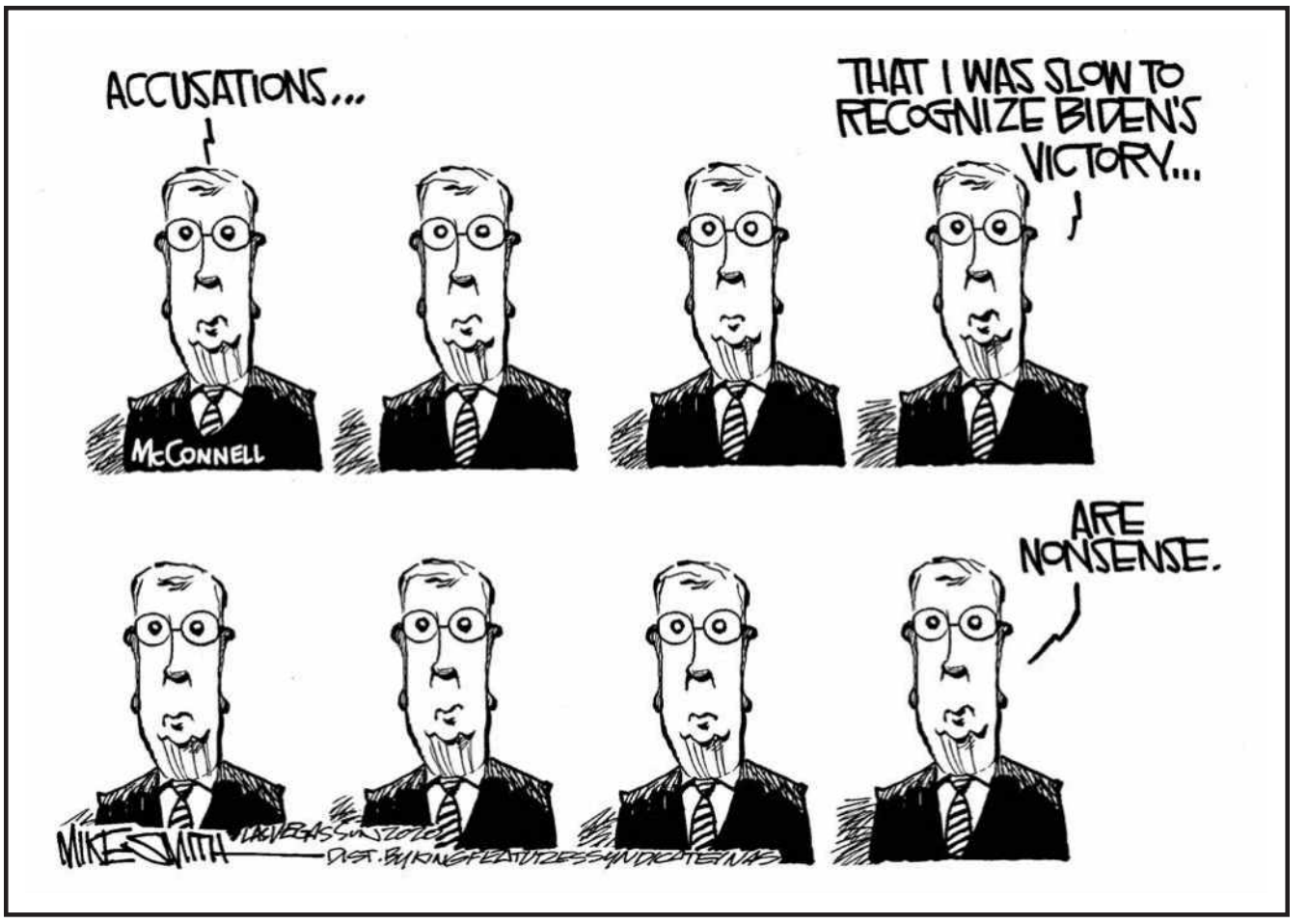


One presidential leader at a time

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*

It happens every time our presidency is transitioning from one party to the other.

Sooner or later, one of the Incomings proclaims something that sounds, to oversensitive incumbent ears, a bit too much like policymaking. And then, one of the Outgoings reflexively dishes out this oldest chestnut: "America only has one president at a time."

But throughout this past week, as pandemic-besieged Americans saw increasingly perilous news that a major new Russian cybersecurity attack has put us at "grave risk," we began to doubt that old chestnut. Because, each time we looked to President Donald Trump's White House for the assurance and leadership only a commander in chief can provide, all we heard back was the sound of silence.

Perhaps we have one less president than we thought. (Or, to be precise: Perhaps we have one fewer fully functioning president—one who is on the job, in touch with reality, safeguarding our security and not wallowing in self-pity—than we know we need to have.) We know the world cannot feel safe with a POTUS who's gone AWOL.

Finally, on Saturday, Trump ended his week of silence in the most minimal and shameful way, by merely tweeting a comment on the cyberattack. He minimized its extent, ridiculed the "Fake News Media" for exaggerating it and dismissed claims that Russia did it. But hours earlier, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had declared "now we can say pretty clearly that it was the Russians" that cyberattacked America's government and contractors.

Trump seemed out of touch and uninterested in all things that weren't about him. He switched in mid-tweet to insisting he "won big" last month's election, recycling a voting machine conspiracy theory and calling the 2020 election a "corrupted embarrassment for the USA."

"The Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality. I have been fully briefed and everything is well under control," Trump tweeted. "Russia, Russia, Russia is the priority chant when anything happens because Lamestream is, for mostly financial reasons, petrified of discussing the possibility that it may be China (it may!). There could also have been a hit on our ridiculous voting machines during the election, which is now obvious that I won big, making it an even more corrupted embarrassment for the USA."

Trump has long seemed determined to please his dictatorial pal, Vladimir Putin. We remember him standing beside Putin in Helsinki and rejecting U.S. intelligence conclusions that Russia cyber-sabotaged the 2016 U.S. election to help him win. "President Putin says it's not Russia," said Trump. "I don't see any reason why it would be."

On Thursday, Trump's own Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency confirmed the cyber-attackers had penetrated U.S. agency systems since March, saying it "poses a grave risk to the Federal Government and state, local, tribal, and territorial governments as well as critical infrastructure entities and other private sector organizations."

The attackers gained access to government computer systems through third-party contractors at a software company called SolarWinds Orion. Many national security agency systems were reportedly compromised, including the National Nuclear Security Administration that maintains America's nuclear weapons stockpiles and fuel.

While Trump remained silent all week, his former homeland security adviser, Tom Bossert, warned in a New York Times oped: "If it is Russia, President Trump must make it clear to Vladimir Putin that these actions are unacceptable. … An intrusion so brazen and of this size and scope cannot be tolerated by any sovereign nation. … Leadership is essential."

Americans also got a glimpse at GOP presidential leadership that might have been, as 2012 presidential candidate, Sen. Mitt Romney, forcefully told SiriusXM radio: "I think the White House needs to say something aggressive about what happened. This is almost as if you had a Russian bomber flying undetected over the country, including over the nation's capital, and not to respond in a setting like that is really stunning."

And mainly, we all got a reassuring reminder that firm presidential leadership is less than five weeks away, as President-elect Joe Biden said in a statement:

"I want to be clear: My administration will make cybersecurity a top priority at every level of government … We will elevate cybersecurity as an imperative across the government, further strengthen partnerships with the private sector, and expand our investment in the infrastructure and people we need to defend against malicious cyberattacks … Our adversaries should know that, as president, I will not stand idly by in the face of cyber assaults on our nation."

And so it goes. It's a long-awaited shot of relief heard round the world: In a true global leadership sense, America still has one presidential leader at a time.

VAW-free community requires us all

Violence against women, also known as gender-based violence, are violent acts primarily committed against women or girls and is a grave violation of human rights. Across the globe, one out of three women experience some form of violence, most often physical and sexual.

The immediate and long-term impact that violence has on women is devastating. Violence against women has mental and physical consequences, and it can also prevent women from ever being able to fully live their lives or find a place of acceptance in society.

To make our community one that is free from violence against women, we must all do our part. Despite laws existing to protect women, it's up to each and every person of all ages to stand up to VAW and ensure women everywhere can live safely, happily, and free from violence.

This is my voice for the VAW community. To promote female empowerment, women must know their rights and realize they deserve equal treatment that is free from violence.

Women, know your rights

As a woman, you have the right to say no to a man.

As a woman, you can have a voice, even if it is an unpopular opinion.

As a woman, you are equal.

Women must appreciate themselves in society. Know your rights, embrace your equality, and don't be afraid. If you have experienced violence or know someone who has, reach out to people that can help.

Men, do your part

Violence against women will not stop without men making changes too. The past patterns lead to future problems, so being active in preventing violence against women is imperative.

But it is more than just being non-violent yourself. As men, changing the masculine culture we live in and promoting a society of equality is critical. When your friends joke about women, let them know it isn't OK. If someone is catcalling a girl or making derogatory remarks, do your part to stop it.

Without men taking an active part, the violence will not stop.

Society, teach our children

The lessons we teach our children today are the values that they will hold tomorrow. As a society, we have to teach our children to value women and see the world through a lens of equality. That means parents, teach your children that everyone is equal. Uncles, tell your nephews how to properly treat a girl. Aunts, empower your nieces to be strong, independent women who aren't afraid to stand up to themselves.

Whether you are a brother, sister, father, mother, aunt, uncle, or grandparent, you can do your part to teach those around you that violence is unacceptable.

Together we can end violence against women

It will not be easy, and it will not be instant, but the sooner we get started, the sooner we can make a difference. If you are a woman who has experienced violence, take control of your life and speak out. If you are a man, make a change and advocate for others to do so as well. Be a positive role model for those who need it. No matter what your position is in society, do your part to stop the violence.

Together we can create a VAW-free community and improve the lives of hundreds of millions of women across the globe.

By ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rosemarie D. Embile is a teacher at the Northern Marianas International School.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Coping with depression during the holiday

While we generally look forward to the holiday season filled with joy and happiness, social gatherings with family and friends, and celebrations, the holiday season for many people is filled with depression and stress.

Holidays can bring sadness resulting from stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, and this year the added restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

So what can be done to cope with holiday stress and depression? And what can we do to help another person dealing with depression and stress?

Keep in mind that even persons who do not view themselves as depressed may develop stress responses, such as headaches, excessive drinking, overeating, or insomnia.

Some ideas for coping with stress and depression include acknowledging your feelings, making realistic expectations and goals for the holiday season, reaching out to others, being realistic about what you can and cannot do, learning to say no, and sticking to a budget.

If you find yourself feeling irritable and hopeless, unable to sleep, persistently sad and anxious, and generally unable to face routine chores and these feeling last for a while, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional.

And some ways we might be able to help others deal with depression and stress is to provide non-judgmental support. Be optimistic but realistic, keep things in perspective, and guide them toward realistic goals.

Take steps to prevent stress and depression during the holiday season. Make plans. Keep positive thoughts. Enjoy the peace and joy of the holiday season.

For more information, contact NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 or call (670) 235-7273/4; TTY 235-7278; Web: nmpasi.org.

Jeanne Rayphand
NMPASI

Equally American applauds Haaland's nomination for Interior secretary

On Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, the author issued the following statement in response to President-elect Joe Biden, Jr.'s choice of Rep. Deb Haaland (D-New Mexico) for Secretary of the Interior:

Equally American applauds President-elect Biden's choice of [Rep.] Deb Haaland to lead the Department of the Interior. Congresswoman Haaland has a distinguished record of leadership as vice chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over federal legislation for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

As America's only public interest law organization fighting for equality for residents of U.S. territories, Equally American looks forward to partnering with President-elect Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, and Secretary of the Interior-designate Haaland to serve the more than 4 million Americans who live in the territories—98% of whom are racial or ethnic minorities or indigenous peoples.

"Equally American encourages the incoming Biden-Harris administration to work with community and political leaders from the territories—especially leaders from underserved indigenous communities—to provide equal rights and fair treatment for residents of U.S. territories. We specifically urge the new administration to reject any continued reliance on the controversial Insular Cases, which for over a century have relegated those living in the territories to second-class status. We also urge the new administration to support Medicaid parity, Supplemental Security Income equality, voting rights, tax fairness, and the right of self-determination in each of the territories.

By NEIL WEARE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Neil Weare is president and founder of Equally American, a nonpartisan public interest law organization that works to advance equality and voting rights in U.S. territories.

The American dream still eludes the 'Dreamers'

It takes a strong stomach to be a "Dreamer," and it probably will even after President Donald Trump leaves office.

The Department of Homeland Security this week said it would accept new applicants for the first time in three years to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. The program was devised by President Barack Obama in 2012 to allow undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children the chance to build a life in their only real homeland. (According to one survey, the average age at which a "Dreamer" arrived in the U.S. was 6.)

Widely popular, DACA nonetheless immediately came under siege. The program, which includes more than 600,000 people, has spent the better part of a decade on a roller coaster ride through the federal judiciary and around the hairpin turns of Trump's anti-immigrant pursuits. In 2017, the Trump administration stopped accepting new applicants to the program and established a schedule for phasing out protection for those who were already covered.

The Supreme Court, ruling 5-4 with Ruth Bader Ginsburg still on the bench, voided that plan in June, declaring that the Department of Homeland Security hadn't properly followed federal procedures. A federal judge last month ruled that the department's subsequent effort was also illegal, having been signed by an acting department head, Chad Wolf, who lacked legal authority.

The department this week said it would recommence granting work permits and deportation deferrals to allow qualified applicants to work, study, obtain drivers' licenses and gain professional credentials. (Last month, Jin Park of Harvard University became the first "Dreamer" to earn a Rhodes Scholarship. DACA status will enable him to travel legally back and forth to Oxford.)

Reprieves for "Dreamers" are invariably temporary, however, and this one is no different. There is still a case in federal court in which Texas and a handful of other states are suing to cancel DACA. America's Voice, an immigration advocacy organization, predicts that the conservative judge in the case will rule against DACA.

Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of the first "Dreamer" bill introduced in Congress. Even if President-elect Joe Biden manages another temporary rescue of DACA, the past two decades of flailing to produce a just solution for "Dreamers" represents a grave indictment of American political dysfunction.

A decade ago this month, the Senate nearly passed a Dream Act after the House had already done so. Six Democrats joined all but three Republicans in opposing it as it was filibustered into submission. The bill's failure was an act of national self-sabotage: The U.S. was in effect taking in children, investing in their educations, raising them to adulthood and then deciding that, all things considered, it preferred not to earn a return on its social and financial investment. Instead, the U.S. would rather limit their potential, along with the social and economic gains that Americans would collectively realize.

The damage extends. Most "Dreamers" are integrated into American families. They have American siblings, spouses or children. By limiting "Dreamers," America limits those family members too.

"Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military?" Trump asked in 2017, at a moment when he was pretending to be part of the broad American mainstream that supports legal status for "Dreamers." It was a rhetorical question, of course. The real answer is pretty alarming.

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg View

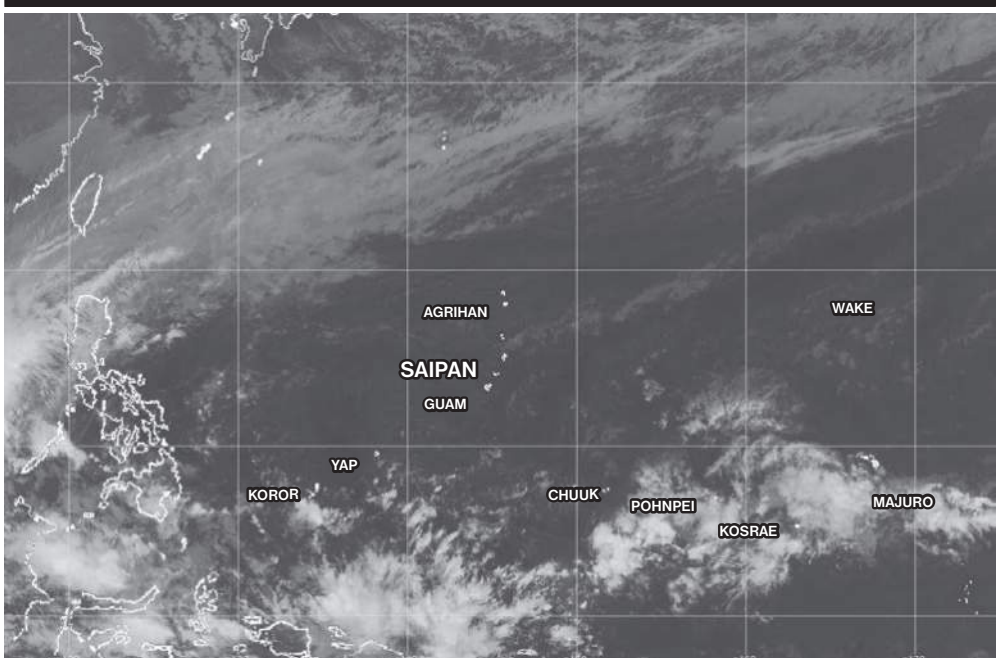
Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View. *He was executive editor of the* Week. *He was previously a national affairs writer for* Rolling Stone*, a communications consultant and a political media strategist.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy. Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Breezy during the day. Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86° 77°	86° 77°	86° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:22 AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Northeast trade-winds and a few showers prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:32 PM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:46 AM	1:07 PM
Thursday	-	1:32 AM	1:42 PM
Friday	-	2:18 AM	2:17 PM
Saturday	-	3:06 AM	2:55 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	72° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 68°
London	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	65° / 45°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°
New York	Cloudy	47° / 45°
Osaka	Sunny	54° / 41°
Paris	Cloudy	50° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°
Salem	Showers	67° / 60°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	53° / 42°
Seoul	Cloudy	45° / 34°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:24 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
7:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.21
2:31 PM	LOW TIDE	1.60
9:21 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.67

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Karidat now on AmazonSmile.com's charity list

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Since 2013, Amazon has donated over $215 million to charitable institutions worldwide through its AmazonSmile.com platform. By purchasing items online and through AmazonSmile.com, customers can donate to the charity of their choice.

This year, the CNMI's Karidat Social Services has made it to AmazonSmile.com's charity list. Now, people can donate to Karidat by simply clicking a button when they make a purchase on Amazon.

Ogumoro

How it works is that Amazon shoppers have to shop on AmazonSmile.com and they can choose Karidat as their charity of choice. Almost all products on Amazon are available at AmazonSmile.com.

"Karidat is truly grateful to be under AmazonSmile.com. An opportunity like this allows us to continue our mission of providing services and advocacy to those in need.

Shoppers who use AmazonSmile.com and choose Karidat as their charity of choice allows them to give back to their community just by shopping what they would normally buy on Amazon," said Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro. "This is the first time we are working with Amazon and it's a win-win situation as more people choose Karidat, and shop online, Amazon will make the donation for them."

Ogumoro said that Amazon got in touch with her in October. "Jesse C. from the Amazon Smile Charity program actually called Karidat on Oct. 30. It was an exciting telephone call to learn that Amazon has selected Karidat. They told us they are expanding their charity program to the U.S. territories."

"Based on our good tax records with the [Internal Revenue Service] as a 501c3 organization, they invited Karidat to become a member of their program. Jesse then informed us how to register Karidat with their Smile Amazon Charity Program," she added.

Currently, Karidat has several projects that the community can help them with. Most proceeds go to their Family Services program and operations, much of which goes to food and home rental assistance. The first one is Karidat's Thrift Shop where donors can donate new or gently used clothing and household items in good condition. Our thrift shop is open from Monday to Thursday, 9am to 12pm. Almost all items are $1 with the exception of new items, which are still very low priced to help our shoppers.

"…The food assistance program provides assistance to 30 families on a daily basis. The rental program provides emergency one-month rent to struggling families having a difficult time paying their current rate or has a past due rent. At this time, priority is given to families who have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to receive public assistance. Those interested in donating for either programs can call our main office at (670) 234-5248 or (670) 234-6981," she added.

Another worthwhile cause during Christmas is the Saipan Toys for Tots campaign, which this year is a collaboration between the U.S. Marine Corps, the Saipan Young Professionals, and the Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College.

For more information on how you can make a donation or include your organization as a beneficiary, call 234-7150 or email saipantoys-4tots@gmail.com.

Office of the Attorney General's public information officer Carla T. Hocog and her family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Embracing Christmas during a pandemic

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's been nearly a year of living our "new normal" under the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then the CNMI has gone through different colors of safety levels, a curfew is still in place, and there is still restrictions on gatherings and trips to public places. While we are still under a public emergency this Christmas, families willingly adjust and alter celebrations and long-time traditions to comply with safety rules. Some use this time to appreciate how far we have gone.

For Delegate **Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP)**, he and his family have two important Christmas events. "The family share a meal and the home visitation of Baby Jesus. …It's been so since I was a child. Our immediate family has grown to almost 100 individuals so one can imagine the size of our family gatherings, whether it is held at my parent's home or at a hotel dining facility. But this is not unique to our family. This is how Christmas Day is celebrated by families throughout the Marianas," he said. "The pandemic has made it impossible for our family to gather as we customarily do on Christmas. It is necessary to avoid large gatherings so as to remain as safe as possible from contracting or spreading the virus. …So my own family will visit my Mom on Christmas Day, just as my siblings will. …Since the adoration of Baby Jesus is not possible this year, including the visits to homes throughout the Marianas, we will instead individually visit and venerate before our family's *Niño* Jesus at my Mom's home. …We will certainly miss the caroling of the Bodig Family this year."

Since the COVID-19 vaccines arrived on Saipan last week and with more expected to arrive in early 2021, Sablan said this will give people of the CNMI the opportunity to be vaccinated. "…Only then can we fully open our islands to tourists, allow our businesses to fully open and bring their employees back to work. We will have greater hope to open schools, with fewer worries of contracting the virus. We also still have a long way to recover from the wrath of [Super] Typhoon Yutu," he said. "I wish everyone who calls the Marianas home a merry Christmas filled with joy, with family and loved ones and with the prospect of good health for 2021."

Sen. Paul Manglona (D-Rota) said that Christmas time is about enjoying family time, singing songs, eating boneless *dagu*, and attending novenas. "Unfortunately, this tradition is practically missing or significantly reduced during this holiday season. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, and our people have done an incredible job of keeping COVID-19 at bay. In spite of this, the pandemic has severely affected our lives economically and socially," Manglona said. "My hope for the incoming year is for all our leaders to work collaboratively in dealing with the monumental economic challenges that we are facing today. We must keep in mind our people and the power and duty they have entrusted us with. We must make decisions that are right, honest, and fair, even when it is tough, to set the course for a stronger island community and rebuild our economy back better and stronger than ever."

TanHoldings lawyer **Steve Pixley** and his family typically purchase a "live" Christmas tree. "However, this year there were very few live trees shipped to Saipan and I was unable to purchase one. We do have an artificial tree. We are blessed that our entire family will be together next week."

According to **Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota)**, Christmas with her family will be celebrated with simplicity yet full of meaning and remembrance. "…This pandemic will affect the way we celebrate Christmas, considering the drop in the world's economy, plus all the health protocols to be observed, called the new normal. Thus, it will be celebrated just within the family and it will not be as extravagant as it used to but

Continued on Next Page

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according to what we have," she said. "As we look forward to the coming new year 2021, may we carry with us life's lessons brought by this pandemic. As most people would say, 'Experience is the best teacher.' So as lessons are learned and lived by, we will be assured of a better, more resilient individuals and communities."

For Saipan Chamber of Commerce president **Velma Palacios** and her family, they are adjusting their Christmas traditions to continue to be safe. "Every year on Christmas Eve, our entire family would attend the Christmas Eve Mass, then we gather for dinner at our house or a family member's home. …Gifts are exchanged, especially for the young children, and on Christmas Day, we attend Mass and come home and wait in anticipation for the traditional *Niño* (Baby Jesus) being brought to visit our homes," she said. "With this pandemic, we will be adjusting to the new normal and following the guidelines recommended by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. We will have just a small gathering after Mass and there will be no *Niño* (Baby Jesus) going to the homes. The Catholic Church has provided alternatives for the families. This would be the first year as far as I can remember that the Baby Jesus will not be brought into homes. We all understand this is for everyone's health and safety."

Palacios said that 2020 has been a real challenge for all, including making adjustments to things that we take for granted. "We are unable to visit families as frequently as we want to via traveling or driving to their homes, to ensure that both our health and safety are not compromised. It has made us even closer as families as we communicate more via phone and social media to help each other cope with not being able to do 'normal' things. We try to support each other across the miles, especially during those times of lockdown."

"For 2021, it is my hope the community and families will continue to be strong and support and help each other. We have done a great job as a community following the COVID-19 Task Force recommendations. With the COVID-19 vaccine now available, there is hope. We can try to have some normalcy without living in so much fear. Overall, it is my hope we can start seeing an uptick in our economy as we all foresee 2021 to be a tough year. I would like to see continued public/private partnerships to work on diversifying our economy while we work on our tourism industry. This, in turn, will allow us to help create more jobs for our people," she added.

Triple J chair and CEO **Robert H. Jones** said the Jones family usually goes to Japan or Utah in the mainland for their favorite family pastime: skiing and other winter sports. "All stayed together in a single cabin large enough to house all 20 family members and enjoy the snow, the cold, and one another, cooking family favorites and baking desserts," he said. "This year we will have individual family celebrations because the focus is on safety and survival, like the rest of the world. I look forward to more opportunities into 2021 and beyond as the world learns how to adjust and overcome COVID-19. …2021 also entails focus on business development in the CNMI, Guam and Micronesia where the family has roots."

In the household of **Carla T. Hocog**, public information officer of the CNMI Office of the Attorney General, the Christmas season is centered on the arrival and welcoming of the *Niño* into their home. "We're also big on family get-togethers and more so during the holidays where we spend it with extended family. Although the visitation of the *Niño* into our homes will not happen this year, my family will continue with our annual tradition by praying the n*obenan Niño Jesus* [novena]," she said. "This Catholic ritual will always be important to carry on despite these challenging times. I'm grateful we are able to keep it going in the safety of our own homes. I'm hopeful for a better and brighter new year!"

Rep. **Ivan Banco (R-Saipan)** said their family tradition is felt by family here and those off-island. "It starts with attending Christmas Mass and then coming together for a home-cooked meal. We call family who are off-island and wish them a merry Christmas and good health. The fun begins when the kids share their Secret Santa gifts from the money they save throughout the year. …After that, the adults move into the hilarious gag gift portion where each one secretly gives and publicly gets a prank gift. This draws an explosion of laughter from everyone."

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) and his clan reunite every Christmas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"In a way, this pandemic has prevented several family members from visiting, either due to the lockdowns in Palau and FSM or the required quarantine days to and from Guam. While we understand it is for the safety of everyone, we continue to thank all our first responders and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force for their due diligence and commitment to keep our islands safe. I share everyone's hope that the vaccine will be made available to everyone…All in all, it is my hope that we can get back to a sense of renewed normalcy and restart our economy," he added.

For TanHoldings Corporate Business Development vice president **Alex Sablan** and his family, their holiday tradition starts with a fresh Christmas tree that gets set up and decorated by everyone in their home. "There are multiple celebrations with our immediate families, extended families, and friends. Our celebrations include homemade seasonal treats, traditional gift exchanges for the kids, and a fun white elephant gift exchange for the adults. On Christmas Day and the subsequent days, we welcome the *Niño* into our home—a tradition has been a part of our families since before we were born," he said. "The pandemic has changed pretty much every aspect of our daily lives, including celebrations. We want to ensure the health and safety of all of our loved ones, especially for those with underlying health conditions. Some of our annual celebrations and traditions have been cancelled but we understand why they should be. This year we will have our own family *Niño* so we can continue this tradition which is very special to us."

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Why I am thankful this Christmas

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Taking time to be thankful for the things that you have received and experienced this holiday season, especially in this challenging time of the pandemic, makes life sweeter and evokes positive emotions. Gratitude is a shared journey and we asked residents to share theirs.

"I'm so thankful to call Saipan home. The people here (those who were born and raised here and those who have chosen to move here) have made building a life here such a positive experience. The community has been so warm and welcoming that it feels like my family has been here for many years rather than a handful of months. And nowhere else in the United States has been as successful at minimizing COVID-19 risk and transmission, thanks to residents' cooperation with policies requiring masks and distancing and support for protocols for businesses and quarantine. People really make a place what it is, and there is no place I'd rather spend this Christmas."

—Ali Nelson of Capital Hill

"We are very thankful that, despite our current situation, we are able to practice and join the CNMI Got Talent and show the audience our talents. In our competition piece, we would like to [convey the] message [to] the public that in every struggle in our life and every health problem, there's is hope and believe that everything will be back to normal. We also thank that our community is safe and the front-liners work hard for our safety."

—Members of the X-cessive Dance Group, the 2020 CNMI's Got Talent grand prize winner (adult division)

"This Christmas, I am thankful for our health, my family, and the many blessings, big and small, that we have received even through this pandemic. I am especially thankful to the people of the Marianas who pulled together and followed the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force protocols and wore their masks. Because of everyone participating, we prevented the community spread of COVID-19. Together we protected each other. Thank you, Marianas, and merry Christmas!"

—Victor Cabrera, Career and Technical Education teacher at Hopwood

See CHRISTMAS on Next Page

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CHRISTMAS

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"My husband, two daughters, and young son are my greatest treasures, and we are so blessed to all be together on this beautiful island. I'm thankful Saipan has kept us healthy with a strict enforcement of quarantine for incoming flights. I'm thankful my daughters have organized Boonie Babies to provide food, care, and furever homes to some of the neglected and abandoned dogs in the community. With all the challenges in 2020 that others have experienced like death, being separated from family, and unemployment, I realize how truly lucky I am."

—Arron Danaher, Sadog Tasi

"I am thankful that we are able to celebrate Christmas with family. I'm thankful for the CNMI cooperating with and supporting each other during a pandemic crisis. Because we are a small community who cares for each other, we continue to bounce back through any hardships that we face each year."

—Eric Atalig, San Vicente

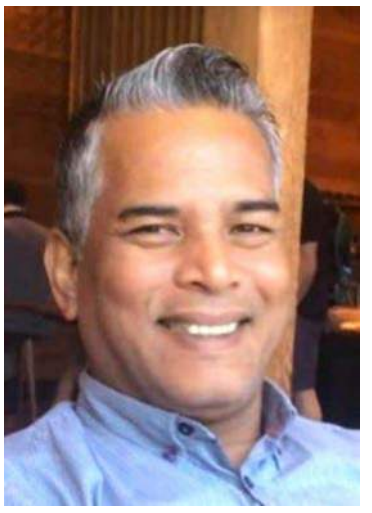
"We are thankful for this Christmas because our family has received abundant blessings all throughout the year. Our Christmas is complete this year because I was able to come home after being away for college for about two and a half years. We are also thankful that we got the chance to share our love for music and the season through the CNMI Got Talent contest. Despite the many challenges we are experiencing, we hope that people would still look at every situation and be able to find that one positive outcome that it can bring."

—Leonard Manuel of The Manuels, 2020 CNMI Got Talent 2nd Runner up

See CHRISTMAS on Next Page

"There is so much to be thankful for this Christmas, but I am most grateful to be with family in Texas and celebrate my newborn niece!"

—Mabby Glass of Tapochao



SAIPAN VEGAS RESORT, MICRONESIAN BROKERS

2 companies team up to donate to the man'amko

A total of 400 packages donated to the Aging Center in Garapan surround Gus Noble of Saipan Vegas Resort and Micronesian Brokers Inc general manager Dennis Yoshimoto, Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, Man'amko 2020 Queen Genia Draper, and Aging Center employees. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

To spread Christmas cheer, Saipan Vegas Resort and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. teamed up to deliver a total of 400 care packages to the elderly at the Aging Center in Garapan last week. Each bag contained basic commodities like food, milk, and toiletries that seniors have difficulty in getting by themselves because their exposure is limited due to COVID-19 concerns.

Saipan Vegas Resort consultant Gus Noble and MBI general manager Dennis Yoshimoto have a clear understanding of the added stress and difficulty that the pandemic has brought to the *man'amko*.

"We are very glad to support the [Aging] Center and believe it's important for local businesses to give back to our community, particularly in these extraordinary and difficult times," Noble said.

"Micronesian Brokers is pleased to partner with Saipan Vegas to donate these 400 care packages to the [Aging] Center. This year has been especially difficult for everyone and MBI is pleased to do our part in bringing a little Christmas joy to our senior citizens and to let them know they are in our hearts and on our minds," Yoshimoto said.

Reigning Man'amko Queen Genia Draper was present at the turnover of the care packages, describing them as heaven-sent. "This mean a lot to us seniors. …I recall talking to someone the other day, we have limited income and food stamps are very minor compared to what most families are getting and you can't use that income on things like shampoo and toothpaste like we have in these packages because to us they are like luxuries. To have those as part of the care package is a big deal," she said. "… We don't eat a lot of meat, we eat a lot of vegetables so the gifts we get, even as simple as spaghetti sauce, it's a treat for us. A lot of times we get fresh fruit and vegetables. … We don't go to the store to buy those because it's an expense for us so when we get things like this, oh, this is awesome. We thank the Lord, Saipan Vegas, MBI. ...We appreciate that the community go out of their way to think of the *man'amko*."

"Thank you to the community for always looking after our welfare. This care package will go a long way. We appreciate it and may God bless you more," said Sonia Cabrera, who was one pf the beneficiaries. BEA CABRERA

According to Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, every donation that the seniors receive from the community is counted as a blessing. "Whenever we receive any kind of donations from people and from the community, we are always grateful and feel blessed. I assure you that our seniors truly appreciate this donation, especially during these challenging times. The care package with food and toiletries will definitely help and it's great that people in the community are thinking about the man'amko," he said. "The [Aging] Center team will deliver these packages to our seniors and practice health and safety protocols. My team follows every protocol. …The same [things are practiced] when they deliver. …We understand our seniors are a vulnerable population and we need to do everything we can to keep them safe."

CHRISTMAS

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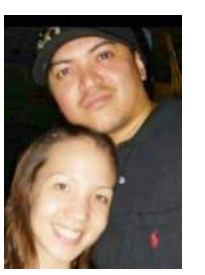


"There are so many 'things' people have in their homes that we should be thankful for. Like the stove that cooks food, the electricity that brings us comfort, cellphones that keep us preoccupied and the beds that soothe us to sleep. These 'things' are great and awesome but I have experienced loss of these 'things.' From Soudelor, Yutu, and now COVID-19, I have lost many things: I lost food, electricity, my bed, my salary, my inner peace and finally, I lost me. Instead, I gained greed and fear, anxiety and depression and in all this grief and loss, I forgot how to be grateful. [Yet] I am [also] grateful for loss. With loss comes a lot of anger and thoughts that absolutely destroy you in and out. Thoughts that are not welcome and barge in, disrupting normalcy. Thoughts that make it seem impossible to breathe and make it through each day. Then when the time is right, with some help, thoughts turn into understanding. With understanding comes perspective. With perspective comes intention. And finally, contentment. This Christmas, I am content and I am grateful for this feeling. …I became a kinder person to my family and no longer focused on all the loss and anger. With contentment my smile becomes a true reflection of my soul. The world I built in my bubble is now a part of the universe. I am no longer alone in my own world. I can welcome the people I love most to visit my world. Thank you, Fernando, Amiah, Reiana, Isaiah, and Mom for being my rock in this journey."

–Meena Benavente, San Antonio

Thinking of You' packages for the holidays

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Do you want to give family and friends something different, creative, and useful during the pandemic, yet something that also speaks from the heart? In one package? It's possible with locally available products! They are easily available, will help keep the our local economy dynamic, and, hey, they won't make a hefty dent on your pocket.

Give the gift of cleanliness: HAND SANITIZER

Aside from merely sanitizing, hand sanitizers' biggest benefits is that you can bring it with you everywhere—to the office, school, meetings, restaurants, at the beach, and more. This will ensure that your family and friends keep clean, which is important during the pandemic. Find Carlotta Instant Hand Sanitizer and Spray in the shelves of I Love Saipan on Middle Road and Garapan.

Express how you feel through HANDMADE CARDS BY JILL ARENOVSKI

Communication is so fast and instant these days that they are nearly throwaway stuff. Yet when you receive a handmade card in the mail, you know that someone has taken their time to create it for you, according to Jill Arenoveski. "That's the beauty of making your own cards. You can use nearly any design and make a beautiful card for any occasion. A card can complete your package, sending a message of hope or support, of love or sympathy, or of cheer and happiness. Especially during this pandemic, we miss actually spending time with others and a handwritten card can bring others closer in our hearts," she said. Arenovski's handcrafted greeting cards are available at the Saipan Shell gasoline stations in Susupe, Dandan, Shell Highway, San Roque, and Puerto Rico, which has the largest card display with the best selection and locations are refilled monthly with new designs and seasonal cards.

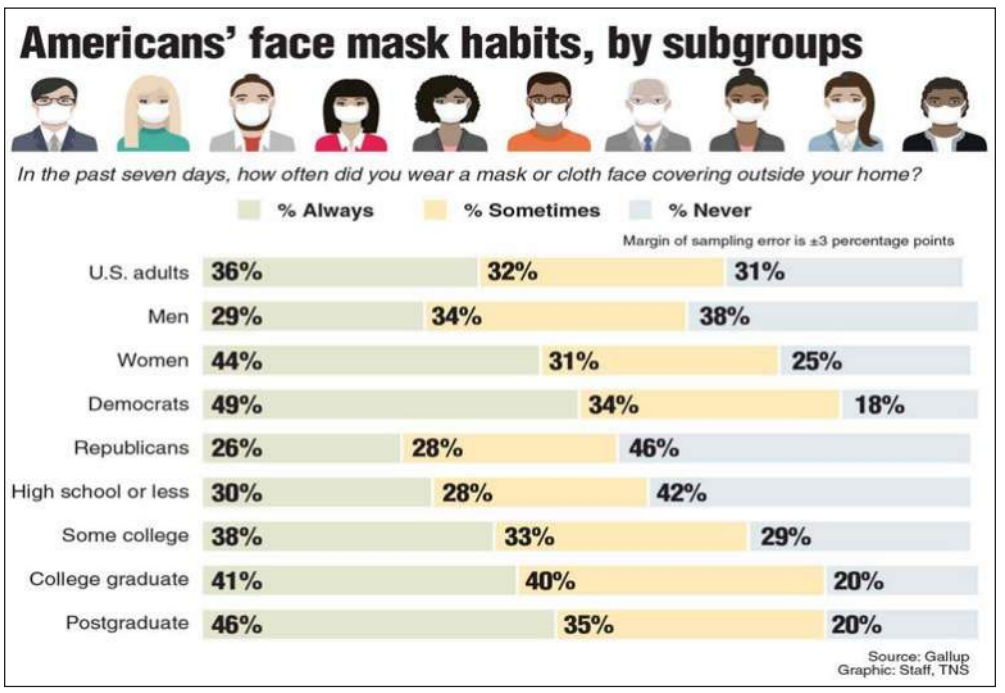
Give the gift of protection: FACE MASKS

With the ongoing pandemic, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of wearing a mask. It protects you and other from contracting any form of virus. But masks don't have to be boring; they can be stylish and decorative. Marjorie Librada makes unique masks using quality cloth so it won't fray easily even after constant use and washing. "I make masks that are fun, colorful, and maybe will show what the personality of the wearer is. I started making my own a few months ago and it is nice to see people wearing my masks but nicer to know that everyone is keeping safe and healthy." For more information, email Librada at librada95masks@gmail.com.

Strengthen your immune system with Vitamin C

Vitamin C that is easy to ingest is one practical gift that you can give, especially during the pandemic. It keeps your loved ones strong and boosts their immune system. Emergen C packets are available at Brabu Pharmacy on Middle Road and Kagman and at PHI Pharmacy in Dandan.

Make a tummy happy with homemade baked goods from Isla Panadera by Jimaela Ham. "It's just really a small business. It's my passion to bake!" said Ham. "I have cookie bags with usually six or eight pieces, cream puffs (6 pieces) and assorted Aloha macarons come in eight pieces. Our macarons are currently available at Payless Superstore and Truckload Store. I am also on FaceBook: Isla Panadera and Instagram: Isla_Panadera."


Americans' face mask habits, by subgroups
In the past seven days, how often did you wear a mask or cloth face covering outside your home?
% Always
% Sometimes
% Never
Margin of sampling error is ±3 percentage points
U.S. adults 36% 32% 31%
Men 29% 34% 38%
Women 44% 31% 25%
Democrats 49% 34% 18%
Republicans 26% 28% 46%
High school or less 30% 28% 42%
Some college 38% 33% 29%
College graduate 41% 40% 20%
Postgraduate 46% 35% 20%
Source: Gallup
Graphic: Staff, TNS

APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Holiday Staycation
PACKAGES
LOCAL Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Free upgrade to Deluxe Ocean View Upon Availability
Check-In 10:00am & Check-Out 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$140.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Check-In (10:00am) & Check-Out (5:00pm)
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$250.00 per room, per night
DINE & RELAX Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in Deluxe Garden View Room
Free upgrade to Deluxe Ocean View Upon Availability
Dining for 2 at Costa's Christmas Buffet, Kevin's, Seafood Night or Sunday Brunch!
Check-In 10:00am & Check-Out 5:00pm
$180.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Dining for 2 at Costa's Christmas Buffet, Kevin's, Seafood Night or Sunday Brunch!
Check-In 10:00am & Check-Out 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$290.00 per room, per night
LARGE FAMILY Staycation PACKAGE (Accommodates 8 Guests!)
Only $320.00 per package, per night
Two Adjoining Deluxe Large Garden View
Accommodates Eight (8) Guests
Two (2) Connected Deluxe Large Garden View Rooms for One (1) Night Stay
Complimentary Early Check-In (10:00am) | Complimentary Late Check-Out (5:00pm)
Includes TWO FREE PIZZAS!!!
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay • 20% Off all Dinner Set Menus at Kevin's
Includes 2 FREE PIZZAS!
Holiday Gift Idea! SPECIAL 10+1 Staycation PROMO!
Purchase 10 Room Night Gift Certificates and get 1 Night FREE! • Make it a long stay or gather friends & family!
Gift a Staycation this Holiday Season!
Total 11 Nights for $1,300.00 (+15%) • Gift Certificates valid for 6 months from date of purchase
For Reservations & More Information
Please call us at (670)322-1234
APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
*15% Government Tax will be added to the total room charges
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rates

Simple steps to stay safe this holiday season

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Over 4,000 COVID19 vaccines arrived in the CNMI last week and a segment of the community will be vaccinated first, like front-liners. When more vaccines arrive next year, hopefully, the whole population will get it.

Still, the CNMI community must remain diligent in observing health and safety measures, especially during the holidays when gatherings and celebrations are at its peak.

The CNMI is still under public emergency and remans on Community Vulnerability Blue. That means everyone must still be mindful that curfew begins at 12am and end at 4am, establishments should enforce social distancing precautions and promote the wearing of face masks and gatherings of people from different households should be limited to less than 25 people.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CHCC Esther Muña asks the community to be extra diligent this season. "Let's not let our guards down when it comes to community transmission and this has always been our message. Always go back to the 3 W's: Wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance. We try our best and we have been doing it successfully to capture the ones at the border and isolate them from the community," she said. "But, again, the science of it keeps changing. …Even when there is a vaccine we should be able to practice the 3 W's as well. The community has been really good at this, making sure that we contain the virus. Even without community transmission, people still wear a mask etc. and please don't get fatigued, don't get tired, we need to do this so that, especially this Christmas, we are able to spend time with family and we can do that with limitations. We want to be able to do this until we are completely out of this pandemic."

Hilda De Dios of Garapan said that when it comes to venue, people should consider having parties outdoors. "My family and I believe that outdoor celebrations and gathering would be the safest for everyone. Good thing we live on an island where we can be with family and friends at the beach, parks or even in our own backyards."

Janine Montenegro of Tanapag said to make the guest list short and simple. "By saying that, I mean keep the celebration short, maybe maximum of three hours, and make the guest list below 25 people or even smaller," she said.

Mario Elias of Sadog Tasi said that if you are feeling under the weather, skip the party. "If you are having flu-like symptoms, do not overlook it. Do not attend a party if you feel this way. Protect others by protecting yourself."

COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said that Christmas caroling must be prevented. "… During this activity, social distancing and the wearing of face masks is not present. At the same time, it fails to comply with rules when entering any sites and offices such as signing up for contact tracing purposes and having one's temperature taken. If an event like this happens, it's abruptly moving from one area to another area," said Villagomez.

"…Even health experts recognize singing as one of the fastest ways to spread the COVID-19 virus…We at the COVID Task Force, wants to make sure that the risk of any type of exposure or infection is avoided. All COVID-19 enforcement agencies are aware of this measure," Villagomez added.

Business

Docomo Pacific continues to support ARC Club 200

Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, continues to support the American Red Cross Club 200.

The American Red Cross is the NMI's largest charity organization that has been at the forefront of all disasters big and small for many years. Their efforts and continuity in providing aid in forms of shelter, food, safety and health are recognized annually at one of the islands biggest events of the year—the Club 200. This yearly headliner event brings the community together to not only celebrate the many accomplishments and sacrifices the American Red Cross has made, but to bring awareness as to why the American Red Cross is important, while fundraising to continue its missions.

"Our community is better when we come together, and we are happy to be able to provide our resources to this impactful and important cause. We are fortunate to return as a Club 200 corporate sponsor once again," Docomo Pacific said in a statement.

Over the years, and through most recent biggest disaster Typhoon Yutu, the American Red Cross was immediately activated. They selflessly devoted their time to ensure that the dire needs of the community (e.g. comfort, safety and health) were addressed as quickly as possible.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Jean Sablan, honorary board director, American Red Cross; and Pauline Johnson, CNMI general manager, Docomo Pacific.

The 32nd Club 200 event was held virtually last Dec. 19.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT DOCOMO, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and entertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Named Guam's most reliable network, based on GWS' 2019 OneScore ranking. We are also the 4-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and four-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific is dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-CHCC/PH-EHDI-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 6, 2021 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC AUTOMATED AUDITORY BRAINSTEM RESPONSE (AABR) MACHINE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP21-CHCC/CGC-HT/PH-MCHB-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - TINIAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB21-CHCC/CGC-DRP-002

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 23, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-005

A-2, A-5 AND A-6 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-2, A-5 and A-6 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing A-2, A-5 and A-6 sewer lift stations, including but not limited to the renovation of the existing generator buildings or the construction of a new generator building, the renovation or relocation of the wet wells with all new pipings, fittings, pumps, generators, and other equipment and appurtenances. The project also includes the installation of a temporary by-pass system and the relocation of existing utilities to accommodate construction activities. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on December 16, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-005, A-2, A-5 and A-6 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) January 6, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on December 18, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-21-011

ISLEY BOOSTER II TRANSMISSION AND BOOSTER PUMP UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Isley Booster II Transmission and Booster Pump Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading of existing Isley Booster II Pump Station (IB-2); installation of new transmission line to the existing Dandan tank; rehabilitation of existing IB-2 concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the IB-2 site; construction of a new chlorine and electrical building; installation of new booster pump system (triplex system); construction of new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-011, Isley Booster II Transmission and Booster Pump Upgrade** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 05, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms.

Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on December 21, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuazon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuazon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Nation

AS TRUMP REMAINS ON SIDELINES

Biden to receive COVID vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP)—The leader of the Trump administration's vaccination program says people who have been infected with the coronavirus—a group that includes President Donald Trump—should receive the vaccine.

Moncef Slaoui, the chief adviser of Operation Warp Speed, told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that the vaccine is safe for those who have recovered and offers stronger and potentially longer protection than does the virus itself.

"We know that infection doesn't induce a very strong immune response and it wanes over time. So I think, as a clear precaution, it is appropriate to be vaccinated because it's safe," he said. "I think people should be vaccinated, indeed."

Trump is now one of the only senior-most U.S. officials who has not received the first of two vaccination shots, which began being administered last week as part of the largest vaccination campaign in the nation's history. Vice President Mike Pence, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., all were given doses Friday. President-elect Joe Biden was to receive his Monday.

All have chosen to publicize their injections as part of a campaign to convince a skeptical public that the vaccines are safe and effective, in hopes of finally putting an end to a pandemic that has killed more than 317,000 people in the United States and upended life around the globe.

AP

Vice President Mike Pence receives a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine shot at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex, Friday, Dec. 18, 2020, in Washington. Karen Pence, and U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams also participated.

Trump, who in the past has spread misinformation about vaccine risks, tweeted earlier this month that he was "not scheduled" to take the vaccine, but looked "forward to doing so at the appropriate time." The White House says he is still discussing timing with his doctors.

Trump was hospitalized with COVID-19 in October and given an experimental monoclonal antibody treatment that he credited for his swift recovery.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory board has said people who received that treatment should wait at least 90 days to be vaccinated to avoid any potential interference.

"When the time is right, I'm sure he will remain willing to take it," White House spokesperson Brian Morgenstern echoed Friday. "It's just something we're working through."

Trump has spent the last week largely out of sight as he continues to stew about his election loss and floats increasingly outlandish schemes to remain in power. It's an approach that has bewildered top aides who see his silence as a missed opportunity for the president, who leaves office Jan. 20, to claim credit for helping oversee the speedy development of the vaccine and to burnish his legacy.

Biden's team vows action against hack as US threats persist

WASHINGTON (AP)—Once in office, President-elect Joe Biden will punish Russia for its suspected cyberespionage operation against the United States with financial sanctions and measures to hobble the Kremlin's ability to launch future hacks, his chief of staff said Sunday, as a GOP senator criticized President Donald Trump for having a "blind spot" when it comes to Moscow.

"Those who are responsible are going to face consequences for it," said Biden chief of staff Ron Klain. "It's not just sanctions. It's also steps and things we could do to degrade the capacity of foreign actors to repeat this sort of attack or, worse still, engage in even more dangerous attacks."

The head of the cybersecurity firm FireEye, which disclosed that it had been targeted by the spying attempt, said it was clear the foreign intrusions were not "one and done" and suggested there was little time to spare before the next one.

"These attacks will continue to escalate, and get worse if we do nothing," said CEO Kevin Mandia.

Cybersecurity experts and U.S. officials such as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have been clear over the past week that they believe Russia was behind the massive hack that infiltrated over 40 federal agencies, including the departments of Treasury, Energy and Commerce, as well as government contractors.

But Trump over the weekend cast doubt on that assessment, suggesting without evidence that China may be behind the cyber intrusions and minimizing the impact. "The Cyber Hack is far greater in the Fake News Media than in actuality. I have been fully briefed and everything is well under control," Trump tweeted, contradicting his own cybersecurity agency, which described the hacks as a "grave" threat.

On Sunday, Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, blasted Trump for putting the U.S. at continuing risk.

"Russia acted with impunity," he said. "They didn't fear what we would be able to do from a cybercapacity. They didn't think that our defense systems were particularly adequate. And they apparently didn't think that we would respond in a very aggressive way."

"I think we've come to recognize that the president has a blind spot when it comes to Russia," Romney added, urging an immediate response and calling cyberspace the "warfare of the future."

While Trump downplayed the impact of the hacks, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has said it compromised federal agencies as well as "critical infrastructure." Homeland Security, the agency's parent department, defines such infrastructure as any "vital" assets to the U.S. or its economy, a broad category that could include power plants and financial institutions.

World

FEARING VIRUS VARIANT

More EU countries ban travel from UK

BERLIN (AP)—A growing list of European Union nations and Canada barred travel from the U.K. on Sunday and others were considering similar action, in a bid to block a new strain of coronavirus sweeping across southern England from spreading to the continent.

France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Ireland and Bulgaria all announced restrictions on U.K. travel, hours after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that Christmas shopping and gatherings in southern England must be canceled because of rapidly spreading infections blamed on the new coronavirus variant.

Johnson immediately placed those regions under a strict new Tier 4 restriction level, upending Christmas plans for millions.

France banned all travel from the U.K. for 48 hours from midnight Sunday, including trucks carrying freight through the tunnel under the English Channel or from the port of Dover on England's south coast. French officials said the pause would buy time to find a "common doctrine" on how to deal with the threat, but it threw the busy cross-channel route used by thousands of trucks a day into chaos.

AP

People at St Pancras station in London, wait to board the last train to Paris today, Sunday Dec. 20, 2020.

The Port of Dover tweeted Sunday night that its ferry terminal was "closed to all accompanied traffic leaving the UK until further notice due to border restrictions in France."

Eurostar passenger trains from London to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam were also halted.

Germany said all flights coming from Britain, except cargo flights, were no longer allowed to land starting midnight Sunday. It didn't immediately say how long the flight ban would last. Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said he was issuing a flight ban for 24 hours starting at midnight "out of precaution." "There are a great many questions about this new mutation," he said, adding he hoped to have more clarity by Tuesday.

Canada announced its own ban Sunday night. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement that for 72 hours starting at midnight Sunday, "all flights from the UK will be prohibited from entering Canada." He added that travelers who arrived Sunday would be subject to secondary screening and other health measures.

The British government said Johnson would preside at a meeting of the government's crisis committee, COBRA, on Monday in the wake of the other nations' measures. They come at a time of huge economic uncertainty for the U.K., less than two weeks before it leaves the EU's economic structures Dec. 31, and with talks on a new post-Brexit trade relationship still deadlocked.

More students abducted in Nigeria but are quickly rescued

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Gunmen in Nigeria abducted more than 80 Islamic school students in northwestern Katsina state Saturday night, but the pupils were quickly rescued by security forces after a fierce gun battle, police announced Sunday.

The foiled abduction comes less than two days after the release of 344 schoolboys who were kidnapped in the same area on Dec. 11. The incidents have highlighted the insecurity in northern Nigeria.

Saturday night's attempted kidnapping took place in Dandume, about 64 kilometers (40 miles) from Kankara, the town where the earlier kidnapping of schoolboys occurred.

The bandits had already abducted four people and stolen a dozen cows when they ran into the schoolchildren who were on their way home from a celebration, Katsina state police spokesman, Gambo Isa, said early Sunday morning. Police and a local community self-defense group rescued the children from the bandits after a gunfight, he said.

"The teams succeeded in dislodging the bandits and rescued all the 84 kidnapped victims and recovered all the 12 rustled cows." said Isa in a statement. "Search parties are still combing the area with a view of arresting the injured bandits and/or the recovery of their dead bodies."

Dandume, an area bordering the northern part of Kaduna state, is one of the region's hotspots for banditry and kidnapping, according to residents.

"Dandume is a no-go-area for many of us because of the high level of crimes and insecurity being perpetrated by armed bandits," said Saidu Lawal, an official of a local civic group in Katsina, told The Associated Press.

"Despite government efforts to open up the area by constructing roads leading from the metropolitan locations to the hinterlands of Dandume ... the banditry still persists," said Lawal. "On many occasions, the bandits block the Dandume-Sabuwa highways to attack travelers. It was based on that reason that many people have abandoned the new route."

Life & Style

AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows Gal Gadot in a scene from "Won-

'Wonder Woman 1984' grabs $38.5 million overseas

The superhero sequel "Wonder Woman 1984" has earned an estimated $38.5 million in ticket sales from international theaters, Warner Bros. said Sunday. The film starring Gal Gadot started its rollout abroad last week, opening in 32 markets including China and playing on upwards of 30,000 screens. The studio said admissions totaled over 6 million and that the largely positive reviews bode well for its future.

Most of the earnings came from Chinese theaters, where it earned an estimated $18.8 million. It wasn't enough to take first place in the country, however—that honor went to a local release.

" Wonder Woman 1984 " won't open in U.S. theaters until Christmas Day, when it will also debut on HBO Max. The pandemic has forced studios like Warner Bros. to embrace unconventional release plans to get films out to audiences.

Originally, "Wonder Woman 1984" was supposed to open in theaters worldwide this summer, but its release date kept getting pushed back. The first film made over $821 million worldwide in 2017 and absent the pandemic, the hope was that the sequel, which cost around $200 million to make, would even surpass that total.

Warner Bros. has tried a few different strategies with its films this year, including releasing "Tenet" in theaters and sending "The Witches" straight to HBO Max. Finally last month the studio decided to embrace a hybrid release for "Wonder Woman 1984." "Tenet" opened internationally first as well, taking off with $53 million from 41 markets in late August.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Reputed mobster admits assaulting 'Real Housewives' hubby

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A reputed mobster admitted assaulting the then-boyfriend and now husband of a former "Real Housewives of New Jersey" cast member in exchange for a deeply discounted lavish wedding reception. John Perna, 43, of Cedar Grove, New Jersey, pleaded guilty Wednesday to a federal charge of committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity. Prosecutors allege the former husband of cast member Dina Manzo, Thomas Manzo, hired Perna to assault his ex-wife's then boyfriend. Perna is part of the Lucchese organized crime family and carried out the assault with a member of his crew in July 2015, prosecutors said. Authorities said a month later, Perna held a wedding reception for 330 guests at Thomas Manzo's Brownstone Restaurant in Paterson for "a fraction of the price." Many of the guests were members of the Lucchese crime family, according to prosecutors. Perna faces up to 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine when he's sentenced on April 28. Thomas Manzo has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and committing a violent crime in aid of racketeering activity. He is awaiting trial. Dina Manzo left the Bravo reality series in 2015 and she married Dave Cantin in June 2017.

Berlin film festival postponed to later in 2021 due to virus

BERLIN (AP)—The annual Berlin International Film Festival is being put off this year due to the coronavirus pandemic and split into two parts later in 2021, organizers said Friday. The "Berlinale" had been scheduled for February in the German capital but cannot go ahead due to the likelihood that coronavirus restrictions on large gatherings will continue, organizers said. To give the film industry a venue to market their products in the first quarter, however, a virtual Berlinale will be held online in March. Then in June, organizers are scheduling a summer event with numerous film screenings for the public in theaters and the open air. "The division makes it possible to maintain the two supporting pillars: film market and festival," organizers said.

Sexual assault charge dropped against rapper Mystikal

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—Prosecutors have dropped rape and kidnapping charges against New Orleans rapper Mystikal, who was released from jail on a $3 million bond almost two years ago.

The rapper had been indicted in 2017 but on Thursday, a second Caddo Parish grand jury returned a no true bill clearing Mystikal, whose real name is Michael Lawrence Tyler, the parish district attorney's office said in a news release.

"Additional evidence and information were discovered and the case was resubmitted to this second Grand Jury in the interest of justice," the statement said.

Tyler, 50, surrendered to authorities in August 2017 when he learned there was a warrant out for his arrest on rape and kidnapping charges. Tyler was accused of a sexual assault at a Shreveport casino in October 2016.

Tyler was later jailed for 1½ years before being released in Feb. 2019 on a $3 million bond.

UK agency agrees not to photograph Duchess of Sussex, family

LONDON (AP)—A news and photography agency has agreed not to take pictures of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and their son, Archie, the High Court in London was told at a hearing Friday.

The agreement is part of a settlement between the former Meghan Markle and U.K. company Splash News and Picture Agency of a case she filed in March over photos of her and her son taken in a Canadian park in January. The agency has since gone into administration, a type of bankruptcy protection.

A spokesman for Schillings, legal representatives for Prince Harry and his wife, called the settlement "a clear signal that unlawful, invasive and intrusive paparazzi behavior will not be tolerated and that the couple takes these matters seriously—just as any family would."

A similar claim against Splash US, a sister company to Splash UK, is continuing in the British court system, the spokesman added.

Under the agreement announced Friday, Splash UK undertakes not to photograph the duke, duchess or their son in the future if the agency comes out of administration.

In a separate privacy case, Meghan is suing Associated Newspapers, publisher of The Mail On Sunday and MailOnline, over publication of a letter the duchess wrote to her estranged father, Thomas Markle.

Ariana Grande announces engagement, shows ring on Instagram

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ariana Grande has announced she is engaged in a series of photos of her and her fiance and her engagement ring.

The "Rain on Me" singer posted the photos of her cuddling with Dalton Gomez, a luxury real estate agent, on Instagram on Sunday. Grande included a close-up shot of the ring in the post, which was captioned "forever n then some."

The singer's mother congratulated the couple on Twitter, saying she was excited to welcome Gomez to the family.

People magazine reported Grande and Gomez started dating earlier this year.

Grande released her latest studio album, "Positions," in November. On Monday, Netflix will release a behind-the-scenes movie on her "Sweetener" world tour, titled "excuse me, i love you."

She was previously engaged to "Saturday Night Live" cast member Pete Davidson in 2018, but they ended their relationship later that year.

Gifts from grandkids are left behind at grandma's house

DEAR ABBY: I raised my kids right as a single mom. I took pride in supporting them and giving them what they needed and wanted.

I have a daughter who lives out of town with her husband and children. I don't get to see them often, so I love buying them gifts that are waiting for them when they get here. For the kids' birthdays and holidays, I always have nice gifts for them, too.

For the past few years, my daughter has refused to take any of the gifts home with her, so the toys sit in my spare rooms. She smirks and laughs when someone says something about leaving behind the gifts I buy. She and her husband stay at my house when they visit, so the kids play with their toys then.

I'm hurt by her lack of appreciation and have decided to stop buying anything for the kids on holidays or birthdays. I don't enjoy giving monetary gifts. I want to see the kids' faces when they open a present and play with it. Would it be wrong for me to just stop buying gifts?

GENEROUS GRANNY IN OHIO

DEAR GENEROUS GRANNY: This is something you should discuss with your daughter. Could it be that your grandchildren have so many toys at home that there isn't room for more?

I'm not sure why your daughter would "smirk and laugh" when "someone" mentions the gifts left behind when your family leaves. That kind of behavior is rude. But I don't think children should be punished for something their parent does. To deny them gifts on birthdays and Christmas because of it would be petulant and a mistake.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is close to death. I haven't had contact with her in 30 years. While we were growing up and even into adulthood, she was incredibly abusive, neglectful and manipulative. She didn't provide the basic needs of food and clothing for us. She prioritized her boyfriend over us kids and engaged in crazy behavior. She would chase us with knives, walk around naked and expect us to accompany her to throw garbage on her boyfriend's car.

I'm not a bad person. I don't wish any harm on her, but she's not part of my life for a reason. As she approaches death, how do I deal with this? No one should die alone. None of my siblings want anything to do with her, either. What do I even say?

POST-TRAUMATIC IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR POST-TRAUMATIC: What do you even say ... to WHOM? To the person who informed you that your mother has little time left? To your mother if you choose to be with her? Are you sure your mother wants you there?

Because you asked for my advice, I am suggesting that you may have fewer regrets—and less anger, righteous as it may be—if you are with her at the end. You don't have to say anything more than, "Mom, I'm here for you," if you don't wish to. From your description of her, your mother may have had serious emotional problems for much of her life. Please allow me to offer my sympathy.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

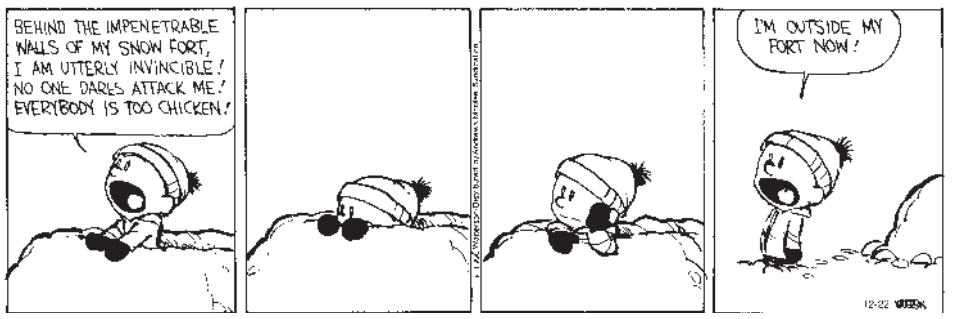
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

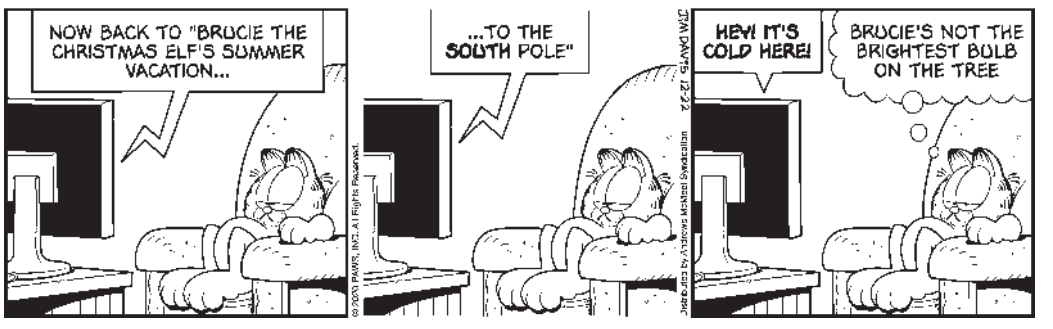
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BEHIND THE IMPENETRABLE WALLS OF MY SNOW FORT, I AM UTTERLY INVINCIBLE! NO ONE DARES ATTACK ME! EVERYBODY IS TOO CHICKEN!
I'M OUTSIDE MY FORT NOW!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


NOW BACK TO "BRUCIE THE CHRISTMAS ELF'S SUMMER VACATION...
...TO THE SOUTH POLE"
HEY! IT'S COLD HERE!
BRUCIE'S NOT THE BRIGHTEST BULB ON THE TREE

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KATY'S SLEEPING UNTIL CHRISTMAS TO SPEED IT UP.
AHH. A NOBLE PLAN.
I TRIED THAT ONCE, BEFORE THE MAYONNAISE FESTIVAL.
I SLEPT FOR TWO DAYS JUST SO IT'D GET TO BE TIME SOONER.
DID IT WORK?
KIND OF. BUT I WOKE UP SO HUNGRY I GOT KICKED OUT OF THE 'SAMPLIN' PAVILION.
12-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HERE YOU GO.
NOT THIS AGAIN! IT TASTES HORRIBLE!
REMEMBER, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD STARVING.
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT SUDDENLY MADE IT DELICIOUS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bakery buys
5 Letters after Q
8 Swedish auto
12 Bullets
13 Overseas agreement?
14 Exile isle
15 Arm of the Arctic Ocean
17 Prayer ender
18 Note after fa
19 Dog doc
20 Bed boards
21 French article
22 Fib
23 Lawn trimmer
26 Dismissal
30 Quebec or Ontario (Abbr.)
31 "Way cool!"
32 Actress Falco
33 Joyous
35 Tipped off, with "in"
36 Yule fuel
37 Hosp. sections
38 Antlered animal
41 Hearty quaff
42 Pen tip
45 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
46 Cream or eggshell
48 "Frozen" snowman
49 Onassis nickname
50 One
51 Wild canine
52 Great weight
53 Eric of "Troy"

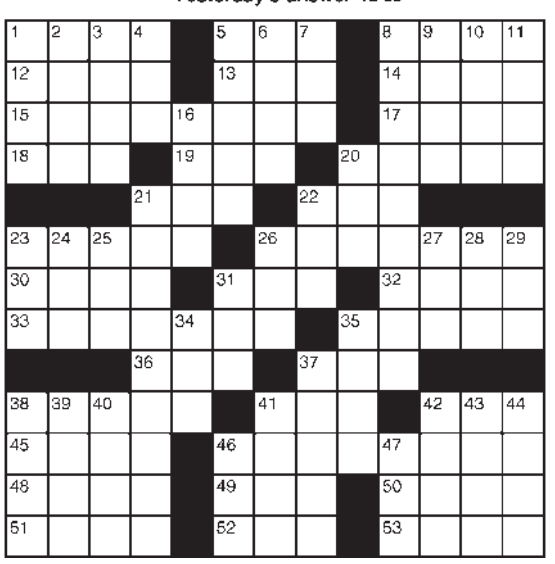
DOWN

1 Bears' hands
2 Texter's "As I see it"
3 Actor Jannings
4 Drunkard
5 Kentucky Derby prize
6 Fat
7 Spanish aunt
8 They may rise due to climate change
9 — mater
10 Help a crook
11 Proscribes
16 Always
20 "Chandelier" singer
21 Stabilizes
22 Went first
23 Fuel stat
24 Magic, on scoreboards
25 Misery
26 Actor Holbrook
27 College URL ender
28 Hasten
29 British ref. work
31 Floor cover
34 Nemesis
35 Ship's staff
37 Like Santa's helpers
38 Cat call
39 Capital on a fjord
40 October birthstone
41 Roundish do
42 1492 vessel
43 "Don't rub —!"
44 Alpha follower
46 Feedbag morsel
47 Center

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	R	U			E	S	P		S	A	I	L
R	A	S	H		A	I	L		U	F	S	A
O	R	E	O		U	N	E		G	A	P	S
N	E	S	T	S		G	A	G	A			
			C	P	A		D	U	R	E	S	S
J	O	N	H	A	M	M		S	C	A	P	E
A	B	O	O		P	L	P		O	R	A	L
M	C	O	C	H		M	A	D	O	N	N	A
S	E	N	O	R	A		Y	A	K			
			L	S	A	T		M	I	X	E	S
I	K	E	A		R	A	M		E	R	S	T
L	O	O	T		O	D	E		S	A	T	E
L	I	N	E		N	A	G			Y	E	P

Yesterday's answer 12-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jordin Sparks, 31; Brooke Nevin, 38; Ralph Fiennes, 58; Diane Sawyer, 75.

Happy Birthday: Verify information carefully this year. The best way to eliminate uncertainty is to know what you are up against and to act accordingly. Refuse to let anyone use pressure or emotional tactics to sway your opinions or decisions. Run the show instead of taking a wait-and-see approach. Be direct and forceful, and pursue your goals with passion. Your numbers are 7, 19, 23, 27, 30, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You could feel pressure to get things done before the year comes to a close. Don't let trivial matters get to you when it's the big picture that counts. Stay focused on what's important to you, and tie up loose ends. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A sudden change will cause uncertainty. Figure out what you want to do, and put your strategy in place. Use your intelligence to navigate your way forward. Put together the documents required to make a move when the time is right. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust in yourself, not what someone is telling you. Look at every angle and consider the consequences of your actions. Look over personal and professional contacts, and evaluate your options. Solidify your relationship with someone special. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Rely on your intelligence, creativity and charisma to help you seal a deal, connect with someone you want to work alongside next year or commit to someone special. Make plans, and put an end to uncertainty. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't jump to conclusions. Document what you spend, what you do and what's still on your to-do list. Organization and preparation will eliminate stress and ensure that you have time left to spend with someone you love. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Embrace change. Making room for projects and home improvements or clearing a space conducive to learning something new will empower you to reach your goal. Don't let a pretense someone offers herd you in the wrong direction. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Consider what will make your life easier and less stressful and encourage better concentration, then make the necessary adjustments. How you structure your life and space will determine how well you do. Aggressive action will impress someone you love. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Think outside the box and you'll surprise someone special. A unique approach to how you live will attract someone who wants to be on your team. Speak up and take action; everything will fall into place. Take control and run the show. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Control your emotions in order to avoid appearing insecure. Focus on getting things done, taking good care of yourself and loved ones. Creat a strategy that will lead to a better future. Avoid questionable people and offers. Romance is apparent. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An aggressive stance will help you get your way. Use your intelligence to outmaneuver any competition you face. Don't let uncertainty cause you to miss an opportunity. Confirm facts, and proceed to the finish line with gusto. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Be careful not to start something you cannot finish. You'll come up against opposition if you try to make changes that others don't like or refuse to accept. Pay more attention to personal growth, better health and fitness, and nurturing meaningful relationships. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Connect with people who have helped you in the past, and show interest in what others are doing. The information offered will encourage you to assess your direction and modify what you are doing to suit trends. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, ambitious and perceptive. You are innovative and charming.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		4	9		7
				8		1		
							4	8
7			3	1				6
	1		8		7		5	
4				5	6			3
3	4							
		5		3				
2		8	9		1			

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	1	7	9	2	8	6	4	3
9	4	6	7	1	3	8	5	2
3	8	2	5	6	4	1	9	7
1	9	8	3	4	7	5	2	6
4	7	5	2	8	6	9	3	1
2	6	3	1	5	9	4	7	8
6	5	1	4	3	2	7	8	9
8	2	9	6	7	5	3	1	4
7	3	4	8	9	1	2	6	5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHO IS ALEX TREBEK? (1940-2020) **Solution: 8 letters**

S	Y	O	I	D	A	R	E	D	N	A	X	E	L	A
F	R	E	N	C	H	L	J	Y	K	C	I	N	W	T
C	U	E	L	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	E	O	O	O
O	B	E	T	I	N	O	T	S	E	R	C	H	H	T
N	D	A	N	N	V	T	E	M	A	G	L	P	S	E
C	U	E	(T)	H	U	E	R	D	N	N	U	O	N	L
E	S	E	(S)	T	O	H	E	A	A	I	C	C	O	L
N	E	C	(O)	Z	L	L	E	G	V	E	I	N	I	T
T	M	N	(H)	Z	B	E	Z	N	R	E	L	A	T	H
R	I	E	N	U	T	N	S	H	I	O	L	R	C	E
A	L	I	O	B	K	L	A	T	A	L	E	F	E	T
T	Y	D	R	A	P	O	E	J	A	U	D	G	L	R
I	M	U	S	I	C	H	O	P	E	R	E	A	F	U
O	C	A	N	A	D	I	A	N	G	A	S	R	E	T
N	I	F	F	I	R	G	V	R	E	M	N	S	R	H

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Alexander, Audience, Battlestars, Buzz, Canadian, Concentration, Creston, Double Dare, Elaine, Emily, Francophone, French, Game, George, Headline Hunters, Holzhauer, Host, Jean, Jeopardy, Lead, Live, Lucille, Matthew, Merv Griffin, Music Hop, Nicky, Radio, Reflections, Show, Sudbury, Talk, To Tell the Truth, Travel, Tune

Yesterday's Answer: Traditions

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 61 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Gobert signs $205M deal; Kuzma gets $40M

AP
In this Feb. 4, 2015 file photo, Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert (27) dunks during an NBA game against the Memphis Grizzlies in Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Rudy Gobert arrived in Utah seven years ago as a relative unknown, without a lot of fanfare and with some serious questions about his potential.

Those days are long forgotten.

Gobert has signed a contract extension with the Jazz, the team said Sunday without divulging terms. A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that the deal is worth $205 million over five years, though Gobert holds an option to end the deal one year early.

"Rudy's competitiveness and will to win have been instrumental in watching how he has grown and evolved into an elite player in our league," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "He is dedicated to his teammates and to winning here in Utah."

The move, first reported by ESPN, was announced two days after Ryan Smith was confirmed by the NBA's board of governors to become the owner of the Jazz, and is the capper to an offseason where Utah committed perhaps as much as $400 million to Gobert and Donovan Mitchell over the five seasons that span from 2021-22 through 2025-26.

The Jazz signed Mitchell to an extension last month that could reach $195 million over those five years.

"I'm here to stay, and I'm here to WIN a championship," Gobert wrote in a letter—he addressed it "Dear Utah"—posted to Twitter on Sunday. "I'm here to win with my brothers, I'm here to win with Coach Q and I'm here to win with you, Utah. Let's get it. Merci."

Gobert is a three-time All-Defensive team player, a two-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year and made the All-Star team last season for the first time. The 7-foot-1 native of France—with a 7-foot-9 wingspan—has blocked 989 shots in the last six seasons, more than anyone else in the NBA during that stretch.

He averaged 15.1 points and a career-best 13.5 rebounds last season and led the NBA in dunks.

"The impact he's had on our team, the state of Utah and so many other communities around the world is immeasurable," Jazz executive vice president of basketball operations Dennis Lindsey said.

Gobert was the first NBA player to test positive for the coronavirus, getting that result back on March 11—the test that prompted the NBA to suspend its season that very night and stop games for 4 1/2 months. Two days before that test result, before leaving a media session at a pregame shootaround, Gobert touched all the reporters' tape recorders that were placed before him on a table in an attempt to be funny—and, after it was learned that Mitchell also tested positive, exposed Gobert to criticism that he was not taking the virus seriously.

Gobert donated more than $500,000 to funds established to help those who work part-time at Jazz games and families affected by the pandemic. He also taped a public-service announcement for the league and, in time, apparently healed his relationship with Mitchell as well.

"I won't be able to control everyone's perception of me, but I can control my actions," Gobert said this past summer. "I can control, you know, the things I do for the people around me, for the community, the things I do for my teammates on the court, off the court. All that stuff, I can control and that's what really matters to me.

Meanwhile, forward Kyle Kuzma has agreed to a three-year, $40 million extension to remain with the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers, a person familiar with the deal said Sunday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Lakers didn't disclose the terms of the deal in their announcement of an extension. ESPN first reported the terms of Kuzma's rookie contract extension, which begins in 2021 and includes a player option for the 2023-24 season.

Kuzma has been a key component of the Lakers' core for three seasons since the team acquired him in a draft-day trade in 2017.

"It is especially gratifying for our Lakers franchise to draft, develop and now sign one of our own to a contract extension," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said. "Kyle has shown tremendous growth over the last three years, and played a crucial role on last season's championship team."

Kuzma made the All-NBA rookie first team in 2018, and the smooth scorer averaged a career-best 18.7 points in his second pro season after the arrival of LeBron James.

When Anthony Davis and several veteran additions transformed the Lakers into title contenders last season, Kuzma transitioned into a supporting role as a reserve scorer and a wing defender. His scoring average and shooting percentage declined, but he worked on improving his defense and playmaking.

Despite his decline in numbers, Kuzma is a valuable component for the defending champs because of his versatility and capability of providing quick offense. James and Davis have mentored Kuzma on defense as well, and Kuzma is expected to compete for a starting job and more minutes this season.

The Lakers begin defense of their 16th NBA championship on Tuesday night against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The champs will be pressed hard against the salary cap for the foreseeable future, so their ability to re-sign their own players is crucial. Kuzma also has significant value as a potential trade component at this salary if he and the Lakers decide to break up in the future.

The Lakers locked down a significant portion of their core during the short offseason after their triumph in the Florida bubble. Davis and James agreed to lucrative deals that will keep them together for three more seasons, while Kentavious Caldwell-Pope got a three-year deal worth more than $39 million.

Clippers to employ triangle offense sets for Kawhi

LOS ANGELES—The new wrinkles Clippers coach Tyronn Lue added to the offense this season originated from the triangle offense and the ways in which Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan found high rates of success.

Lue decided to employ "a few sets" from the triangle because Kawhi Leonard has the skills to operate in the pinch-post area like Bryant did with the Lakers and Jordan did with the Chicago Bulls. And Lue is using this because Leonard expressed a desire to perform in the triangle.

Lue, who won two NBA championships with Bryant and played with Jordan with the Washington Wizards, said the shortened preseason and training camp were also factors in trying to find ways to put Leonard in the best position.

"We have put in two or three sets of the triangle and let Kawhi play in those spaces where Kobe and Jordan played in those spots as well," Lue said before Sunday's practice. "He loves those two players and he really respects and looks up to those guys. So, we just try to put him in position. I was able to play with both those guys and I also played in the triangle, so just trying to teach him that as well … teach our team as well."

Beyond having to watch the Lakers get their NBA championship rings on opening night Tuesday at Staples Center, beyond watching them raise their league-tying 17th championship banner and beyond playing their rivals, the Clippers have their own source of motivation this season.

That, at least, is what Paul George maintained Sunday.

The Clippers were one of the favorites to win the crown last season. Instead, they imploded and blew a 3-1 series lead in losing to the Denver Nuggets in the Western Conference semifinals.

It's a new season and George said the Clippers are simply motivated to right some wrongs and to bring home the first championship in franchise history.

"Dec. 22 won't be the test of defining who we are and where we're at playing the Lakers on their opening ring ceremony," George said. "It'll be a great ceremony for them. But it's the start of what we're trying to do and that's the only thing we got to look at is the start of the marathon and the race that we're running for this year. So, we have enough motivation going into this season regardless if we started this season off with someone else or the Lakers. We got enough motivation for this season."

Meanwhile, Lue said Serge Ibaka (lower back soreness) and Patrick Patterson (hyperextension of elbow) have improved health-wise and are expected to practice Sunday.

Ibaka, the starting center who signed a two-year deal with the Clippers for $19 million, missed the preseason finale Thursday night against the Jazz because of his injury.

"Serge practiced the full practice yesterday [Saturday] as well," Lue said.

When asked about the status of Marcus Morris, who missed all three preseason games with right knee soreness, Lue didn't totally rule out the forward for Tuesday night's game.

"We don't know as of right now," Lue said. ***(AP/NBC)***

Mahomes, Chiefs spoil Brees' return

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Patrick Mahomes had his full repertoire of side-arm throws, basketball-style push passes and underhanded flips on display while passing for 254 yards and three touchdowns, and Kansas City extended its winning streak to nine games with a 32-29 victory over New Orleans on Sunday.

The Kansas City defense did its part to spoil Drew Brees' return from rib fractures and a punctured lung that had kept the record-setting passer out four games.

While Brees passed for 234 yards and three TDs, he completed less than half of his passes and was intercepted for just the fourth time this season.

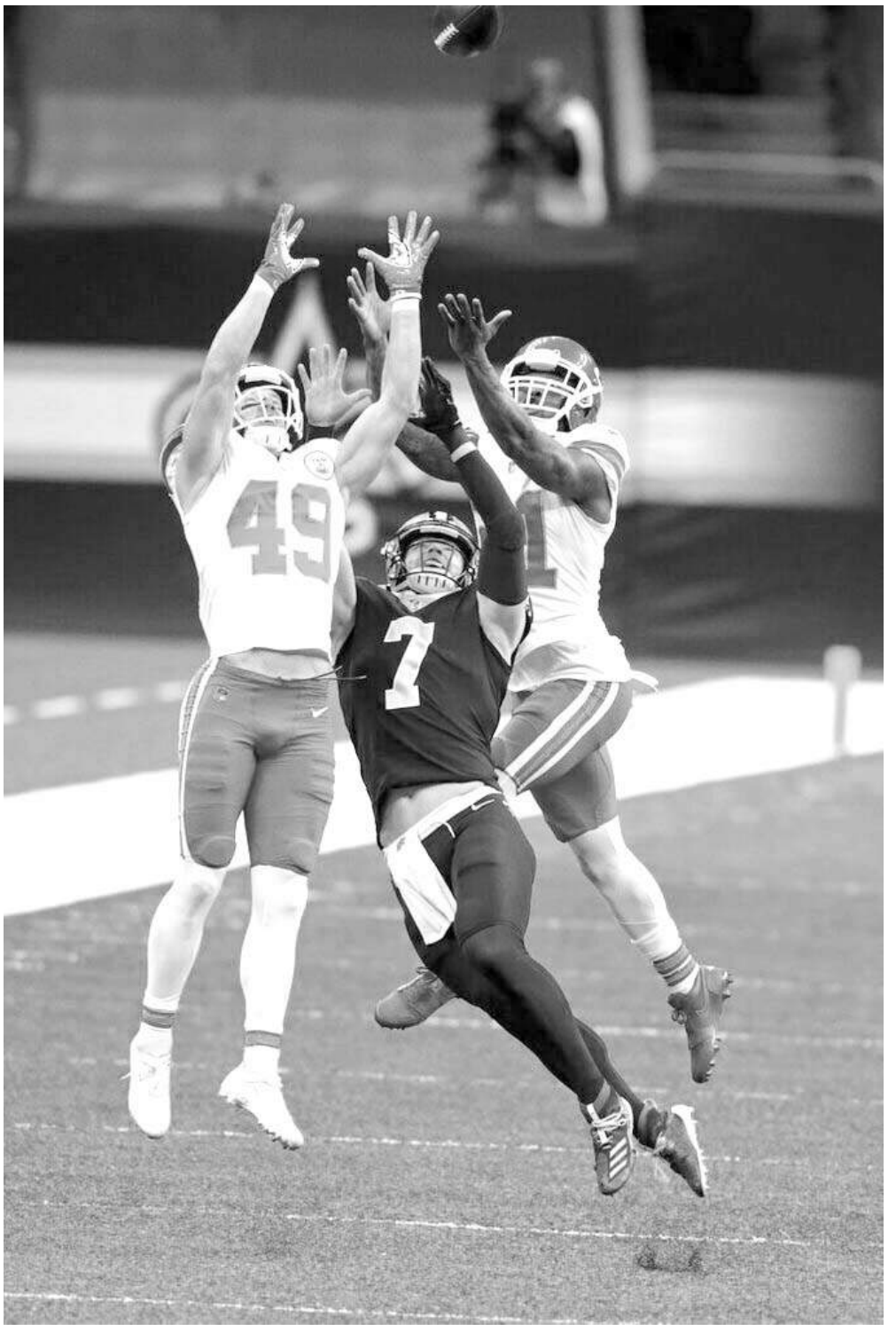
The victory kept the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (13-1) in pole position to capture the AFC's lone playoff bye as a No. 1 seed. The Saints (10-4), meanwhile, missed a chance to clinch the NFC South for a second straight week and now are longshots to capture the NFC's top seed.

Mahomes' scoring passes went for 5 yards each to Tyreek Hill and Mecole Hardman, the latter coming as the Chiefs' agile QB back-peddled toward the left sideline to avoid pressure and released a throw to the back corner of the end zone, where Hardman was able to snag it in traffic while narrowly getting two feet inbounds.

Mahomes' second TD toss looked more like a basketball assist, a chest-pass to tight end Travis Kelce cutting behind blockers for a 1-yard score.

Mahomes later used an underhanded forward flip to Kelce for a 2-point conversion after a 12-yard touchdown run by Le'Veon Bell to make it 29-15 in the fourth quarter.

Just 3,000 tickets were sold for this marquee matchup between playoff contenders in the Superdome, but those in attendance got a first-hand look at Mahomes' mesmerizing and unconventional theatrics.



AP
Kansas City Chiefs free safety Daniel Sorensen (49) and cornerback Bashaud Breeland (21) break up a pass intended for New Orleans Saints Taysom Hill (7) in the first half of an NFL game in New Orleans, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020.

Jets 23, Rams 20

The New York Jets fended off an 0-16 season on Sunday, stunning the heavily favored Los Angeles Rams for their first win of the season.

With the win, the Jets improved to 1-13 on the season, moving into a tie with the Jacksonville Jaguars for the worst record in the NFL. Thanks to having an easier schedule and the tiebreaker that comes with it, the Jaguars now have the inside track to the No. 1 pick in the draft and Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence.

New York threatened to blow a big advantage, allowing the Rams to rally late from a 20-3 deficit. But the Jets held on late in the fourth quarter and knelt in victory formation for the first time in 2020.

With the stunning loss as 17-point favorites, the 9-5 Rams missed a chance at home to secure a playoff berth and now sit a game behind the 10-4 Seattle Seahawks for the NFC West lead.

Buccaneers 31, Falcons 27

Tom Brady did it again to the Atlanta Falcons.

This time, he didn't even need overtime.

Rallying Tampa Bay from a pair of 17-point deficits, Brady recreated his Super Bowl miracle by leading the Buccaneers on five straight scoring drives in the second half for a victory over the stunned Falcons.

The stakes weren't nearly as high and the deficit wasn't quite as daunting, but Brady's latest blow to Atlanta took the Bucs (9-5) to the brink of their first playoff berth since 2007.

It sure didn't look that way when Atlanta raced to 17-0 by halftime, or when the Falcons (4-10) restored their margin to 24-7 after Brady finally guided the Bucs to a touchdown on the first possession of the second half.

Turns out, the 43-year-old was just getting warmed up.

Seahawks 20, Washington 15

Russell Wilson and the Seahawks built a big lead, and Seattle's suddenly opportunistic defense held on to beat Washington and clinch a playoff spot.

Wilson threw for a touchdown, Carlos Hyde ran 50 yards for a score, and the Seahawks (10-4) picked off Washington quarterback Dwayne Haskins twice. Shaquill Griffin and D.J. Reed each had an interception as the league's worst passing defense played strong until the fourth quarter.

After a Haskins-led comeback from a 20-3 deficit fell short, Washington (6-8) had its winning streak snapped at four with Alex Smith out because of a calf injury. Haskins finished 38 of 55 for 295 yards, a TD pass and the two interceptions.

Cardinals 33, Eagles 26

Kyler Murray threw for a career-high 406 yards, DeAndre Hopkins had 169 yards receiving and a stellar touchdown catch, and Arizona improved its position in the playoff race by beating Philadelphia.

Arizona (8-6) won its second straight game as it tries to make the postseason for the first time since 2015. The Cardinals are in third place in their division behind the Rams and Seahawks and would currently be the No. 7 and final seed in the NFC playoffs.

The Eagles (4-9-1) trailed 16-0 in the first quarter, but rallied to tie the game at 26 in the third quarter after quarterback Jalen Hurts ran for a 7-yard touchdown.

Arizona responded with its go-ahead touchdown drive capped by Hopkins' spectacular 20-yard grab. Cornerback Michael Jacquet was playing tight defense on the play, but Hopkins wrestled the ball away and held on with one hand as he fell past the pylon into the end zone.

Murray completed 27 of 36 passes, with three touchdowns and one interception.

Colts 27, Texans 20

Philip Rivers threw a late, tiebreaking touchdown to Zach Pascal and Indianapolis' defense recovered a fumble in the end zone with 19 seconds left to seal a victory over Houston.

Indy (10-4) has won three straight to retain a share of the AFC South lead with Tennessee, winners over Detroit. Houston (4-10) has lost three straight and five of six in this series.

The Colts won this one in similar fashion to the teams' meeting two weeks ago. The Texans had a chance to win that one in the final minute but Indy jumped on a bad snap to quarterback Deshaun Watson inside the red zone.

Titans 46, Lions 25

Ryan Tannehill ran for two touchdowns and threw three more, and Derrick Henry ran for 147 yards and a score to move Tennessee closer to clinching its third playoff berth in four seasons as it routed Detroit.

The Titans (10-4) did their part with their second straight victory and fourth in five games to stay atop the AFC South. With Indianapolis beating Houston 27-20, the Titans still hold the tiebreaker in the division over the Colts with two games remaining.

The Lions (5-9) lost their second straight after winning their first game under interim coach Darrell Bevell even with quarterback Matthew Stafford shaking off a rib injury to start.

Ravens 40, Jaguars 14

Baltimore built a 26-point halftime lead against helpless Jacksonville and rolled to a victory that boosted their playoff chances and extended the Jaguars' losing streak to 13 games.

Lamar Jackson threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score to carry the Ravens (9-5) to their third straight win following a three-game skid. Hopeful of reaching the postseason for the third year in a row, Baltimore is among several AFC teams vying for three wild-card spots.

After Jackson returned from a bout with cramps to deliver a thrilling 47-42 win in Cleveland on Monday night, the Ravens had no desire for any drama at home against Jacksonville (1-13). Baltimore got the desired result, taking a 26-0 lead in the second quarter before cruising to the finish.

Bears 33, Vikings 27

David Montgomery rushed for a career-high 146 yards and two touchdowns and Chicago trampled Minnesota's depleted defense and hung on for a victory to stay in the hunt for the expanded playoffs.

The Bears (7-7), who entered the afternoon one game behind Arizona for the new third wild-card spot in the NFC, never trailed in winning at Minnesota for a third straight year. Coach Matt Nagy improved to 5-1 against the Vikings (6-8), whose postseason chances all but vanished.

Chicago punted only once, on the opening possession. It did just about whatever it wanted with the ball until Cameron Dantzler intercepted Mitch Trubisky's third-and-goal pass into a crowd in the end zone with 2:57 left and a 30-27 lead.

Cowboys 41, 49ers 33

Tony Pollard ran for two touchdowns with Ezekiel Elliott sidelined by an injury for the first time in the two-time rushing champion's career, and Dallas beat San Francisco.

Four of the seven Dallas scores were set up by turnovers from the 49ers (5-9), who guaranteed themselves becoming the second Super Bowl runner-up in the past 13 seasons to finish with a losing record the next year.

The Cowboys (5-9) kept faint playoff hopes alive in a matchup of longtime rivals with a rich playoff history that was moved out of prime time with both teams starting the day in last place in their divisions.

Andy Dalton threw for two touchdowns, and Greg Zuerlein kicked a tiebreaking field goal early in the fourth quarter after the second interception by Nick Mullens, who was replaced by C.J. Beathard.

Beathard handled the last two possessions and threw a 49-yard touchdown to Kendrick Bourne on the final play on a desperation pass.

Tiger's son Charlie steals show from majors winners

PNC CHAMPIONSHIP

AP

Tiger Woods watches his son Charlie's shot from the third fairway during the final round of the PNC Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

FLORIDA—Justin Thomas and his father, Mike Thomas, sat atop the scoreboard at the end of this weekend's PNC Championship at 25-under par.

But it was the seventh-place team that stole the show. Tiger Woods and his son, Charlie, finished six spots back on a leaderboard that also featured Lee Trevino and John Daly. The father-son duo drew most of the attention at the Orlando event held for major winners and their families.

The weekend served as a coming-out party for 11-year-old Charlie, who wore Sunday red and helped his dad to a seventh-place score of 20-under par at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando.

He also celebrated a good putt with a signature Tiger fist pump—the iconic celebration of his father's that's older than he is.

The pair shot a 10-under 62 on the second day of the two-day scramble. But it wasn't about the scoreboard for Woods—as it so often is. The 44-year-old who bonded with his late father on the golf course in his youth talked about the chance to do so with Charlie ahead of the tournament.

Charlie showed Tiger how it's done on the third hole last Saturday, hitting a fantastic shot to set up an eagle.

Charlie hit the ball roughly 170 yards around some trees to bring it just a few feet away from the hole. Tiger couldn't help but be impressed, calling it an "awesome shot." Charlie, 11, finished off the hole on the next shot, giving the Woods' an eagle. The shot pushed the team to -3 through 3 holes.

"It's just so cool for me to see him enjoying the sport, feeling the shots and hitting it as solidly as he's doing now," Tiger told reporters after a Friday practice round with Charlie.

"The whole idea is the bonding that we have. I spent so much time with my dad on the old back nine and just having those moments. This is an opportunity to come together and share great moments like this."

After Sunday's final round, Tiger clearly cherished the moment.

"It was incredibly special for us to have the opportunity to spend the quality time we had," Tiger said. "It's memories we'll have for our entire lives."

The weekend was the latest chapter in the Tiger saga that's seen him evolve from teen phenom to ruthless competitor and all-time great before a personal and professional downfall and rebound that culminated in the 2019 Masters championship.

Since that victory, Tiger has softened his hard competitor's edge—at least when it comes to his perspective of being a father. This weekend, he and Charlie gave a glimpse into what that relationship looks like.

Meanwhile, Mike Thomas admitted that Saturday's start at the PNC Championship was more stressful than he'd anticipated, but he made Sunday's finish look stress-free.

After he and his son, PGA Tour star Justin, got off to a torrid start with seven consecutive birdies to begin their round, Mike Thomas calmly rolled in a 5-footer for birdie at the final hole for a 25-under total and a one-stroke victory over Vijay Singh and Singh's son, Qass.

In a career that's included 13 Tour victories and a major championship, Justin Thomas said Sunday's triumph at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club in Orlando was different.

"One hundred percent it was [different], it was the most enjoyable. More emotional than other victories. I wanted my dad to make that putt [at No. 18] so bad," Justin Thomas said. "Obviously, we wanted to win and we wanted to play well, it's crazy to say going into the tournament that a part of you just doesn't care. We're here to be father and son and just have fun and enjoy this special moment together."

For Mike Thomas, the victory was particularly sweet following weeks of trash-talking between the PGA of America professional and Woods' son, Charlie. A day after Team Tiger was paired with Team Thomas on Saturday, Mike was asked if he planned to show the champion's belt to Charlie. ***(AP/NBC)***

ROLLERS

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in the second half with only Marianne Cayetano delivering more than two baskets for the losing squad. He finished the match with 9 markers. Gia Hemley added 3 points, while Jenny Lee and Tasilyn Ramon scored 2 points apiece.

In last Saturday's game, Rollers Blue played better in the second half to beat the Lady Ol'Aces.

Rollers Blue was behind at the break, 6-9, but took the driver's seat in the final half, with Jan Travilla, Irish Pagarao, and Chevy Alipio producing baskets for the team. Travilla, who was held to a deuce in the first half, scored 7 in the second, while Pagarao also had 7 markers. Alipio chipped in 6.

Joy Pena, Jamila Alegre, A.J. Garon, Hemley, Kaia Travilla, Marlene Lumabi, and Fiona Bucalig are also on Rollers Blue's roster.

Cassanda Camacho paced the Lady Ol'Aces with her 7 points, while Taz Deleon Guerrero recorded 6 markers. Lia Rangamar, Jaime Pangelinan, Desrei and Sedrei Camacho, Halle Kenty, Sylvana Simran, Antonette Labausa, Joyce, and Fernandez complete the Lady Ol'Aces' roster. The Ol'Aces combined their players and Rollers did the same to form four teams in the women's division.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Lady Ol'Aces' Lia Rangamar, left, and Paulynn Joyce, right, sandwich Rollers Red's Jenny Lee, who fumbles during the closing minutes in the first half of their game in the Rollers 2020 Holiday Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium yesterday.

The Lady Ol'Aces played their second game last night against Rollers Red and were ahead at halftime, 12-4. The final scores were unavailable at press time.

Meanwhile, this year's holiday hoops organized by the Rollers Basketball Club also featured games in the boys U13, U17, and U19 divisions.

Rollers Red and Rollers Blue are vying for the U13 title, while Rollers Blue, Rollers Red, CT Titans, and the Ol'Aces are entered in the boys U17 division. Rollers Blue, Sun Palace, K Rollers, and the Ol'Aces are competing in the boys U19 category.

Video footage of the various games are shown on Rollers' Facebook page, as fans are not allowed at the Koblerville Gymnasium because organizers are implementing safety measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEAGUE

From Page 24

MHS 1 won the last interscholastic tournament PSS had (2018-2019 season), as the Dolphins outclassed Tinian Junior Senior High School-1 in the rubber, 25-11.

Matches in next year's boys division will also take place every Saturday, beginning on Jan. 30. The same race-to-21, one set match rule applies in the boys high school games.

Safety protocols during the tournament will also be implemented, according to Gross.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this undated file photo, a female player bumps the ball, while her teammates look on during a co-ed 4v4 beach volleyball competition at Sandy Beach.

Gobert signs $205M deal; Kuzma gets $40M

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Rollers Blue, Baby Ol'Aces win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Baby Ol'Aces and Rollers Blue triumphed in their opening games in the Rollers 2020 Holiday Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium over the weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers Red's Kaia Travilla, left, and the Lady Ol'Aces' Antonette Labausa, center, battle for the loose ball.

The Baby Ol'Aces hammered Rollers Red last Sunday, 48-16, while Rollers Blue topped the Lady Ol'Aces in last Saturday's game, 26-18.

Alliyah Fernandez, Rosie Saralu, and Angel Roligat teamed up in the Baby Ol'Aces' lopsided victory, combining for more than half of the winning team's total output. Fernandez scored 9 points, while Saralu and Roligat chipped in 8 markers apiece.

Sedrei Camacho, Leani Acosta, Raena Romano, Aleai Santos, Paulynn Joyce, and Kina Rangamar also played for the Baby Ol'Aces and made at least one basket each to contribute to the team's easy win.

The Baby Ol'Aces built a 24-6 halftime edge and never looked back from thereon, as coach John Santos drew points from every player he fielded in the one-sided match.

Rollers Blue fell behind ear-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Lady Ol'Aces' Alliyah Fernandez takes a shot against a Rollers Red defender during their game in the women's division of the Rollers 2020 Holiday Tournament at the Koblerville Gymnasium yesterday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Beach volleyball action will return on island next month with the staging of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic Beach Volleyball League.

22 teams join v-ball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Volleyball action will be back on island next month with the staging of the 2020-2021 Public School System Interscholastic Beach Volleyball League.

The competition will feature high school teams (girls and boys divisions) and will be the first volleyball tournament that PSS will be holding since cutting short the middle school event (playoffs did not push through) last March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and totally scrapping the boys high school contest. Only the girls high school and middle school seasons (2019-2020) were completed before the pandemic struck.

"We've been approved by the COVID-19 taskforce to conduct our 4v4 Beach Volleyball League to replace the 6v6 indoor competition," PSS Student Support Services Athletic Program director Nick Gross said.

Ten teams have signed up for the girls high school division led by defending champion Grace Christian Academy, which will be represented by two squads. The GCA Lady Eagles topped the 2019-2020 season (indoor competition) after beating Saipan International School 1 in the finals, 25-20, 25-8.

The SIS Lady Geckos will also field two squads (SIS 1 and 2) in this season's beach volleyball league, while Marianas High School 1 and 2 and Mt. Carmel School 1 and 2 are the other entries in the round-robin regular season. Rota and Tinian squad complete the roster, as the visiting teams will only compete in the double-elimination playoffs.

Preliminary games will be played every Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts starting on Jan. 23. Each game will only be played for one set, which is a race-to-21 match. The playoff round for the division is set for Feb. 20 and 21.

In the boys division, 12 teams will be vying for the championship. The list includes GCA, SIS 1 and 2, MCS 1 and 2, MHS 1 and 2, Agape 1 and 2, Kagman, Rota, and Tinian. Again, the visiting squads will only compete in the double-elimination playoff round that will be played on Feb. 26 and 27.

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